

II

TALES OF
THE ABYSS

ASCH the BLOODY

II

Manga: Hana Saitou
Script: Rin Nijyo
Original Story: Namco Bandai Games Inc.

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ASCH the BLOODY

TALES OF
THE ABYSS
テイルズ オブ アビス

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CHAPTER 8,
TURNING POINT







II

..... TSK!

GW0000

TALES OF THE ABYSS

テイルズオブアビス

ASCH THE BLOODY

MANGA BY HANA SAITOU, SCENARIO BY RIN NIJO, ORIGINAL WORK BY BANDAI NAMCO GAMES

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ASCH THE BLOODY

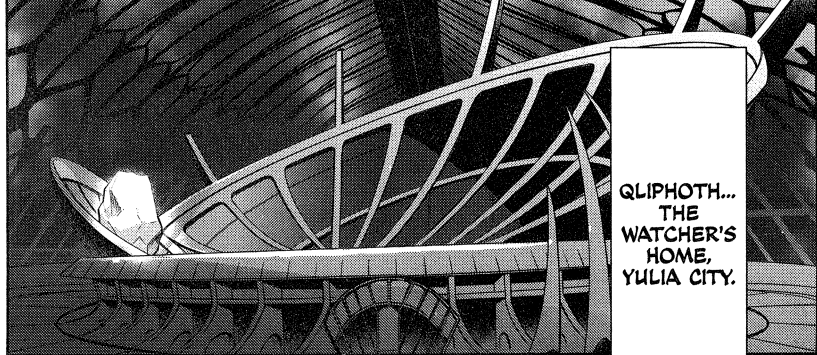


ASCH
UNEXPECTEDLY
MET LUKE,
ASCH'S REPLICA
WHO STOLE HIS
PLACE IN
THE WORLD.

LUKE
WAS
THEN
MANIPU-
LATED
AS A
PART OF
VAN'S
SCHEME
...

...AND
CONTROLLED
BY VAN,
LUKE
CAUSED THE
TOWN OF
AKZERITH
TO BE
DESTROYED
IN A
LANDSLIDE.

*I can't
believe
what
defective,
useless
trash my
replica has
become
....!!*



QLIPHOTH...
THE
WATCHER'S
HOME,
YULIA CITY.





ISN'T THE
MAKING OF
REPLICAS
OF LIVING
THINGS
STRICTLY
FORBIDDEN?

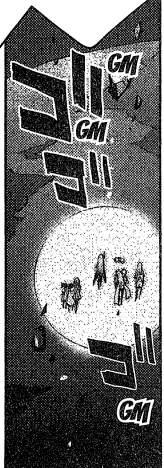
YES.
EXACTLY.



BUT YOU
TELL ME
THAT
ASCH THE
BLOODY
IS THE
REAL
LUKE...?

THAT
LANDSLIDE AT
AKZERIUITH
HAPPENED,
AND WE SAW
THIS WORLD
UNDERNEATH
OURS...

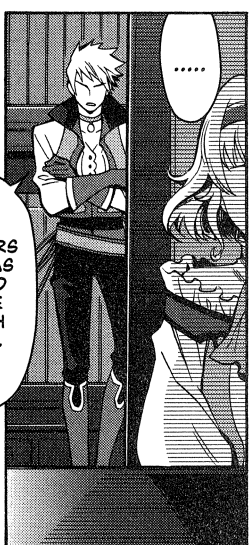
...THAT'S
ENOUGH TO
SURPRISE
ANYBODY!



...AND
WAS A
DIFFERENT
PERSON
ENTIRELY
...?

HE HAD
JUST GONE
THROUGH
THE
FORMICRY
PROCESS...

SEVEN YEARS
AGO, HE WAS
KIDNAPPED
AND CAME
BACK WITH
AMNESIA...
LUKE...



.....

I WONDER
IF HIS
MEMORY
WILL EVER
RETURN?

BEFORE
THIS, HE
WAS SUCH
A SHARP
AND
CLEVER
CHILD.

DON'T
WORRY!

I KNOW
SOMEDAY...

...YOU'LL
REMEMBER
EVERY-
THING
...!!

WAAAAAH

わ
あ
あ
あ

.....

IT
WASN'T
THAT
HE HAD
FORGOTTEN
HOW TO
WALK AND
TALK...
...HE
NEVER
KNEW
THEM
IN THE
FIRST
PLACE.

AH, I HAD
FORGOTTEN
THAT
NATALIA
AND GUY
WERE HIS
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS.

I WAS
BASICALLY
JUST A
SERVANT
THOUGH.

MIEU
AND
ASCH
ARE
WITH
HIM.

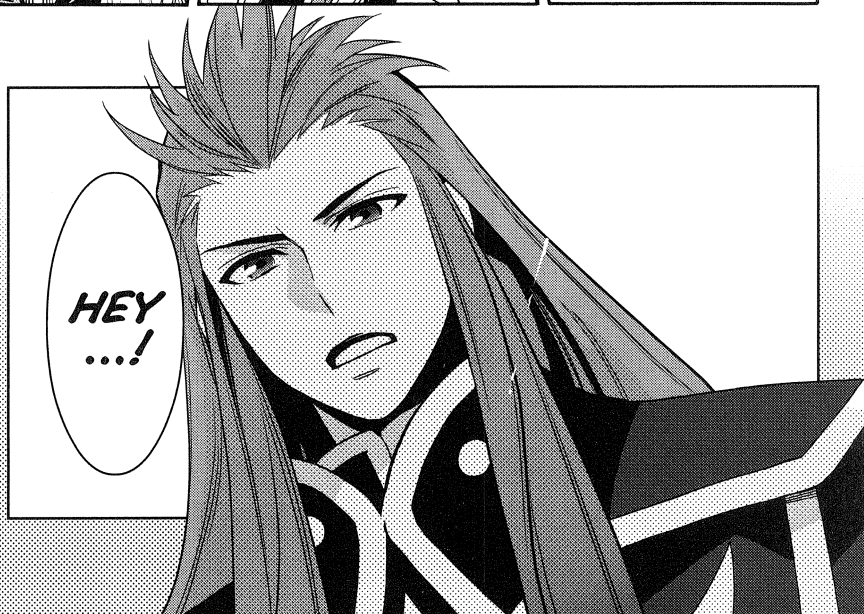
HE'S
STILL
ASLEEP
IN MY
ROOM.

TEAR!
HOW IS
LUKE?

SHUUM

ニ
フ

わ
あ
あ
あ





Mieu!

ACT LIKE
A MAN
AND WAKE
UP, YOU
TRASH!!



IS THAT
WHAT
YOUR
EYES ARE
SEEING,
ASCH?

WHY AM I
SLEEPING
RIGHT
BEFORE
MY OWN
EYES...?

SO
YOU'VE
FINALLY
COME
TO?

MM...
EH?
WHAT...?



?!
FWUMP

LISTEN
GOOD!

YOU AND
I ARE
PERFECT
ISOFOGS.



YOU MEAN
I'M INSIDE
OF ASCH'S
HEAD?!

AS
EXPECTED,
YOU
HAVEN'T A
CLUE AS
TO THE
SITUATION,
HUH?



REPLICA...
NO!! I'M--

IN OTHER
WORDS, YOU
ARE AN EXACT
REPLICA OF
ME DOWN TO
YOUR FONON
FREQUENCY.

FON SLOTS
ARE CRITICAL
POINTS FOR
FONONS THAT
MAKE UP MY
BODY. THEY'RE
SORT OF LIKE
PRESSURE
POINTS.

A PERFECT
REPLICA CAN
CONNECT
TO THE
ORIGINAL
THROUGH
FON SLOTS.

***WE ARE
CONNECTED
IN THIS WAY.***



AFTER
THAT,
YOU
HEARD
MY
VOICE A
NUMBER
OF
TIMES,
RIGHT?

I HAD
YOUR FON
SLOTS
OPENED
TO ME AT
CHORAL
CASTLE.

AH!

! ≠
?

OH...



I'D
RATHER
JUST...
HERE
AND
NOW...

*I don't
want to
believe it
either!*

*That this
trash could
be a
recreation
of me...*



YOU
ARE A
REPLICA
OF ME.

I...
I'M...



***Luke is
my only
master!***

***You can't
hurt my
master!***

**MIELI,
YOU...**

みゆ
うううう

MIUUUUUUUUUU

**THERE'S
NO
POINT IN
STAYING
HERE.**

**WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?**

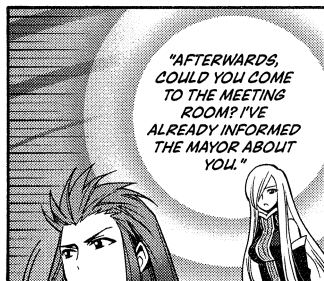
**AS
YOU
WISH!**

**You
would
protect
trash?!**

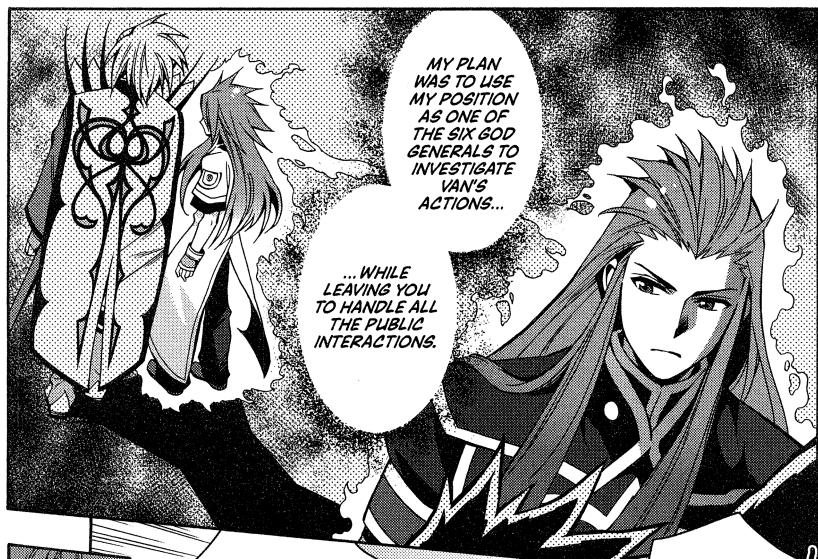


.....
IF I KNEW
WHAT A
STUPID
DEFECT
YOU WERE,
I WOULD
NEVER HAVE
DONE IT.

..... S-SAY...
WHY
DID YOU
CONNECT
YOURSELF
TO ME
ANYWAY?



"AFTERWARDS,
COULD YOU COME
TO THE MEETING
ROOM? I'VE
ALREADY INFORMED
THE MAYOR ABOUT
YOU."



MY PLAN
WAS TO USE
MY POSITION
AS ONE OF
THE SIX GOD
GENERALS TO
INVESTIGATE
VAN'S
ACTIONS...

...WHILE
LEAVING YOU
TO HANDLE ALL
THE PUBLIC
INTERACTIONS.



EVEN IF I HAD
TOLD YOU, DO
YOU THINK
FOR A MINUTE
THAT YOU
WOULD HAVE
BELIEVED
ME?!

YOU NEVER
WOULD HAVE!
YOU WOULD
HAVE RUN
AND TOLD
EVERYTHING
TO VAN FIRST
THING!

B-
BUT...

BUT I WAS
A FOOL TO
THINK I
COULD
RELY ON A
REPLICA!

WHAT'S
THAT FOR?!
YOU COULD
HAVE
TOLD ME
FROM THE
START...



HE STILL
CALLS HIM
"MASTER"...

MASTER
VAN
WAS...

I'LL NEVER
USE THAT
WORD FOR
HIM AGAIN!!

GLARE

GLANCE



AND
SEE
WHAT
REALITY
IS!!

YOU
WILL
SIMPLY
WATCH
FROM
WHERE
YOU
ARE!!

I
SHOULD
...

TO DO THAT,
I HAVE TO
RETURN TO
THE OUTER
LANDS AND
INVESTIGATE!

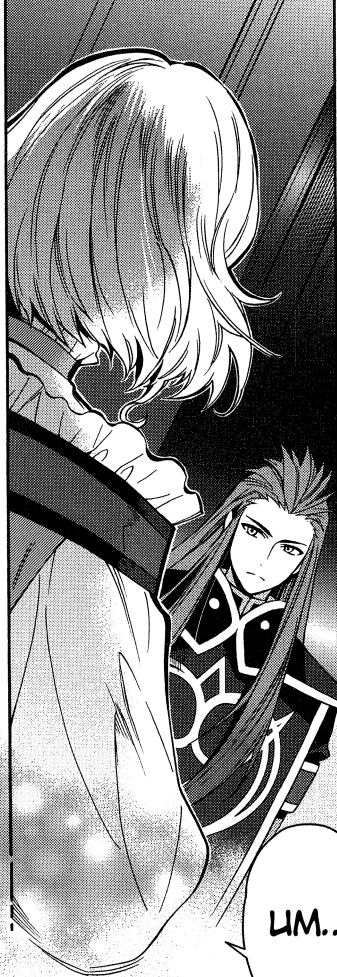
I'M GOING
TO STOP
VAN'S
SCHEME!

LUK...
DAMMIT!
WHAT THE
HELL?!

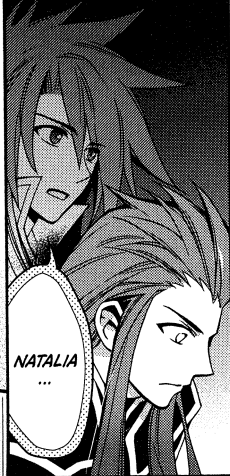
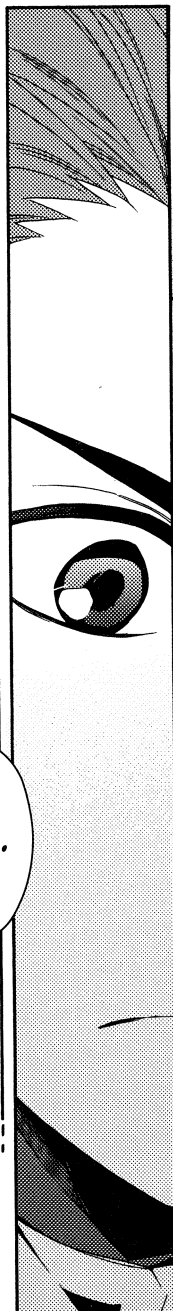
SHUUM

LUKE
!!

SHICK



LM...



NATALIA



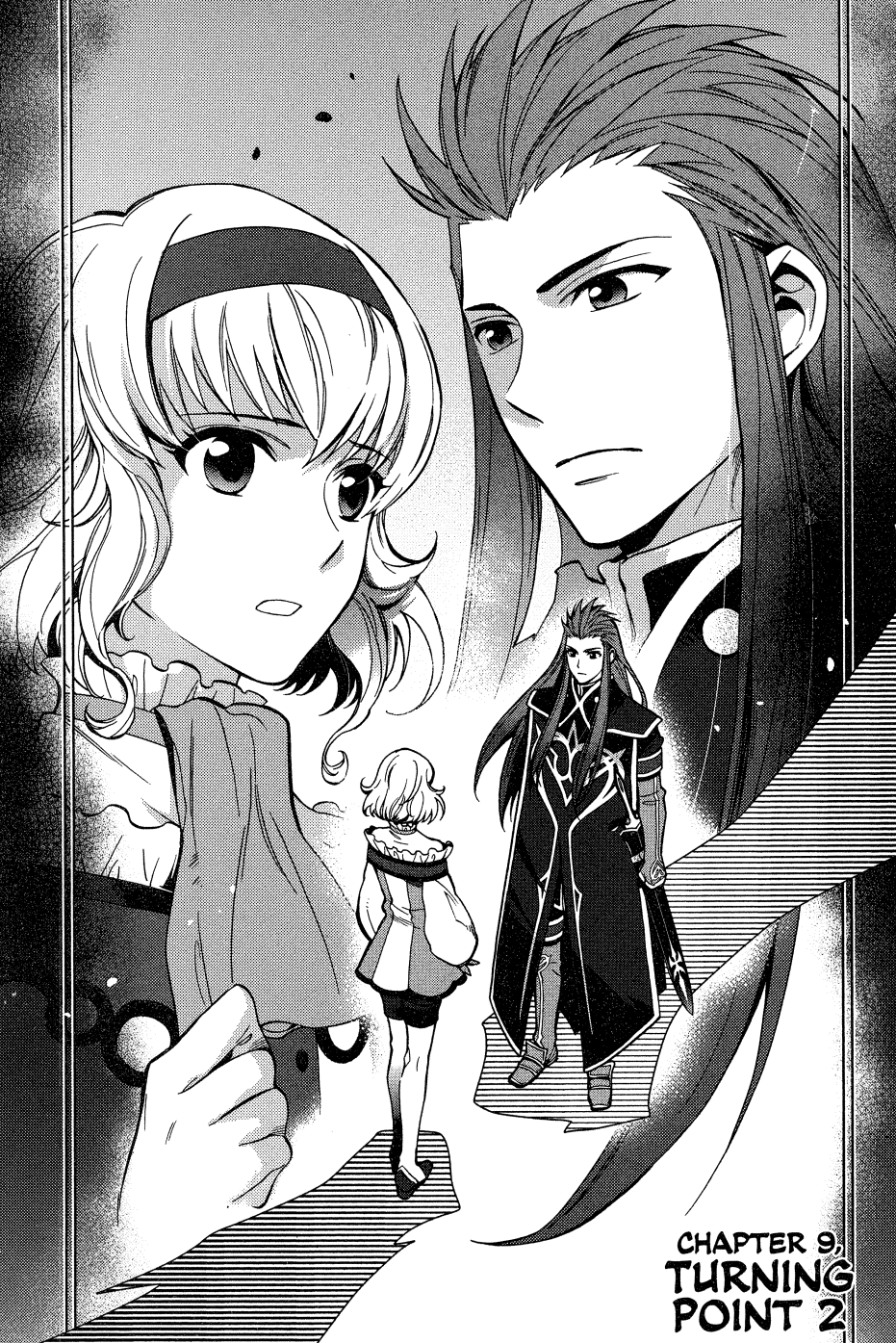
LU... OH,
NO...
YOU'RE...

...ASCH.

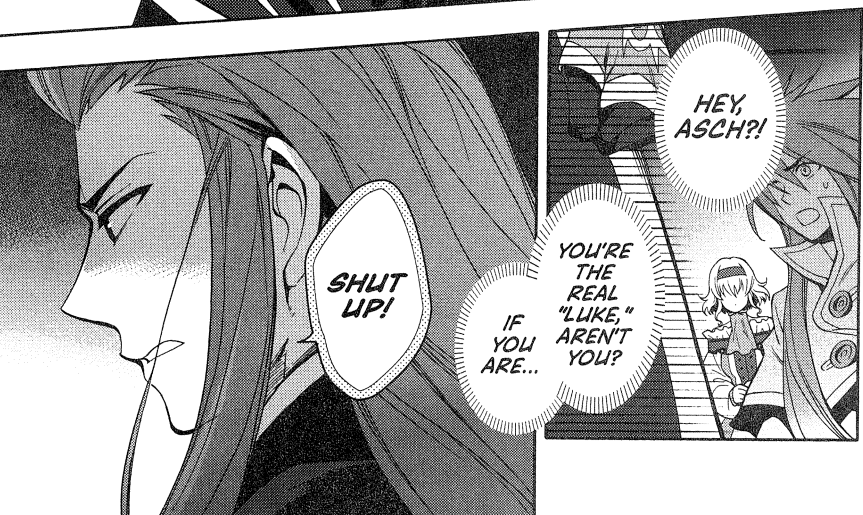
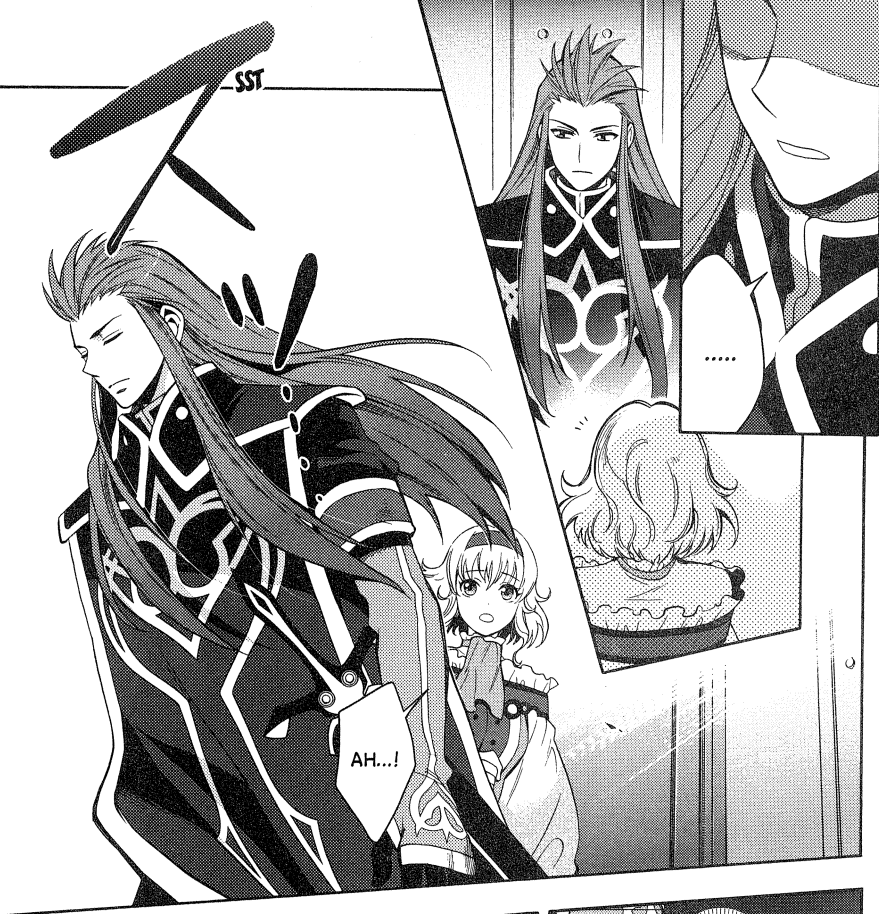


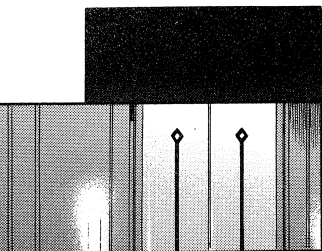
...PERHAPS,
REMEMBER
ME...?

DO
YOU...



CHAPTER 9,
TURNING
POINT 2





**YULIA CITY,
MEETING HALL...**

**YOU
WANT TO
RAISE THE
TARTARUS
TO THE
OUTER
LANDS?!**

KAK

.....!

**I'M A
MAN...**

**...WHO HAS
ALREADY
ABANDONED
HIS PAST!**



THAT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE!
I KNOW YOU
SAY IT'S
CRUISE-
WORTHY
EVEN
AFTER THAT
LANDSLIDE
...

AND
BESIDES,
THIS
GUY HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN
OUR
ENEMY!



WE'VE
HAD THE
LANDSHIP
UNDER
REPAIRS
IN YOUR
HARBOR
AND IT
IS NOW
USABLE.

YES.



LUKE
WASN'T...



... WAS
NEVER
REALLY
OUR
ENEMY.

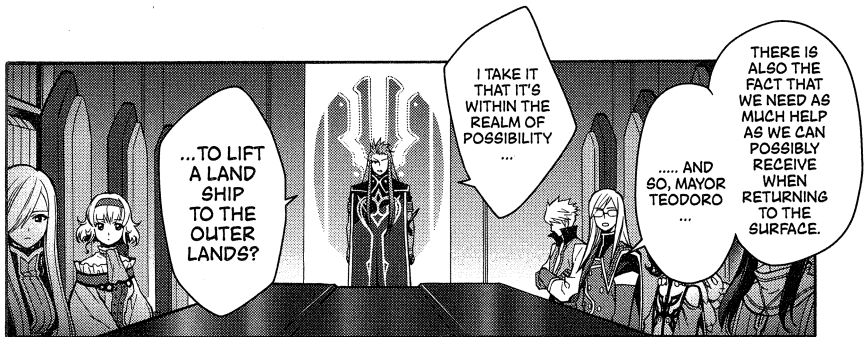
I MEAN
ASCH...

..... AT
THE VERY
LEAST,
AT THE
MOMENT
OUR
GOALS ARE
PRESENTLY
THE SAME.

ANISE,
I ALSO
BELIEVE
WE MAY
TRUST
ASCH.

WELL...
IF YOU
SAY SO,
FON
MASTER
ION...





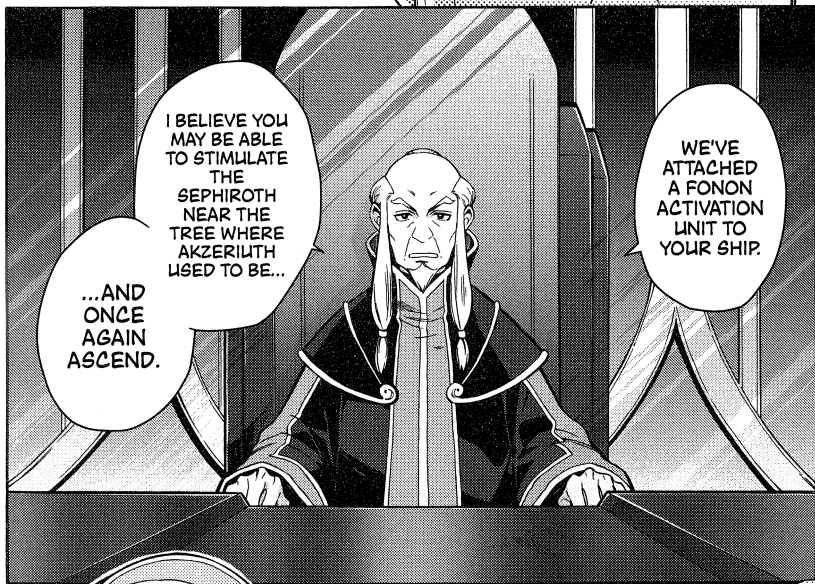
...TO LIFT
A LAND
SHIP
TO THE
OUTER
LANDS?

I TAKE IT
THAT IT'S
WITHIN THE
REALM OF
POSSIBILITY
...

..... AND
SO, MAYOR
TEODORO
...

THERE IS
ALSO THE
FACT THAT
WE NEED AS
MUCH HELP
AS WE CAN
POSSIBLY
RECEIVE
WHEN
RETURNING TO
THE SURFACE.

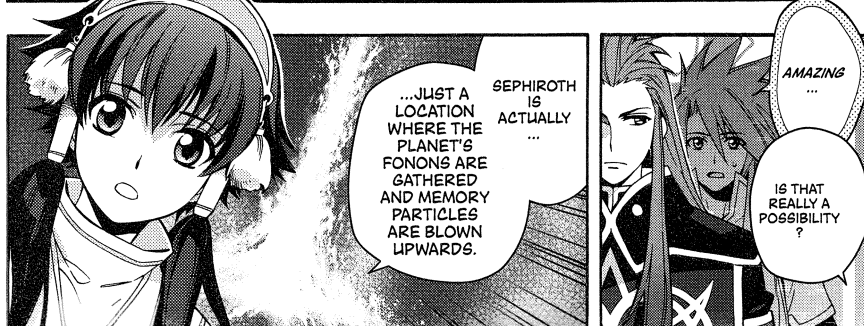
3
2
NOD U)



I BELIEVE YOU
MAY BE ABLE
TO STIMULATE
THE
SEPHIROTH
NEAR THE
TREE WHERE
AKZERIUTH
USED TO BE...

...AND
ONCE
AGAIN
ASCEND.

WE'VE
ATTACHED
A FONON
ACTIVATION
UNIT TO
YOUR SHIP.



...JUST A
LOCATION
WHERE THE
PLANET'S
FONONS ARE
GATHERED
AND MEMORY
PARTICLES
ARE BLOWN
UPWARDS.

SEPHIROTH
IS
ACTUALLY
...

AMAZING
...

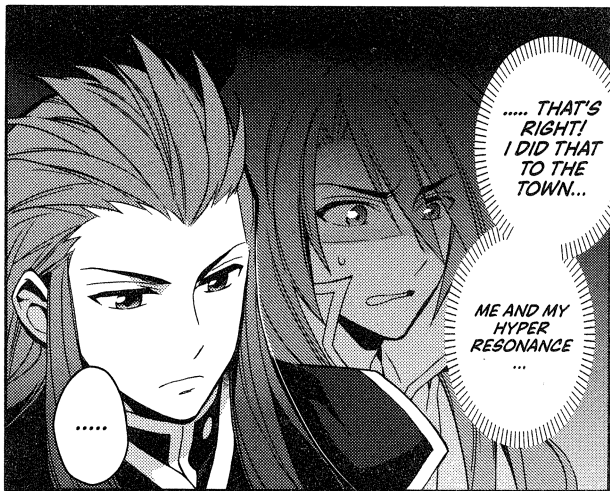
IS THAT
REALLY A
POSSIBILITY
?



AND WHEN
ONE
VANISHED,
AKZERIUETH
FELL IN A
LAND-
SLIDE.

..... !!

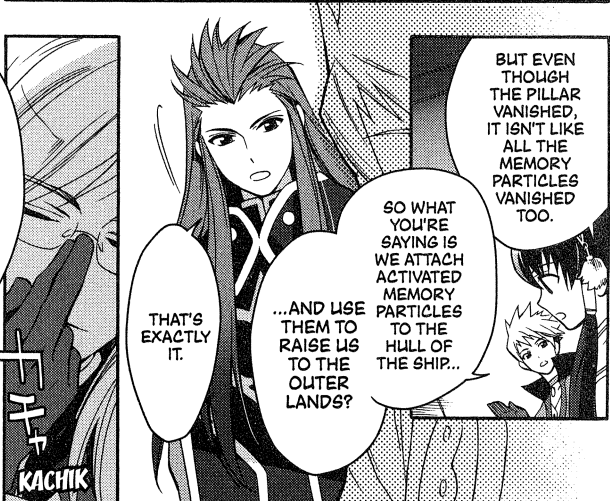
THE PLACES
THAT ARE
ARTIFICIALLY
STRENGTHENED
ARE CALLED
SEPHIROTH
TREES. IN
OTHER WORDS,
PILLARS.



..... THAT'S
RIGHT!
I DID THAT
TO THE
TOWN...

ME AND MY
HYPER
RESONANCE
...

.....



LET US
MAKE
READY
POST-
HASTE.

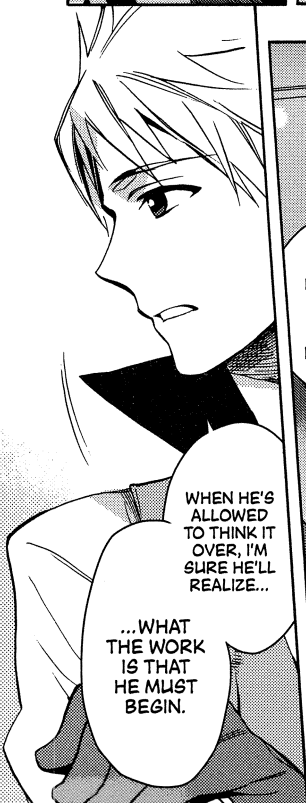
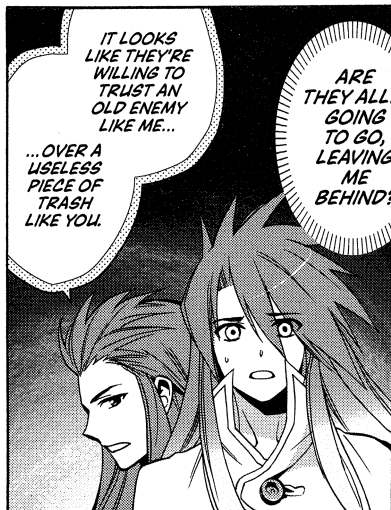
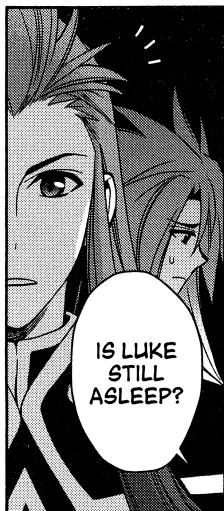
THAT'S
EXACTLY
IT.

...AND USE
THEM TO
RAISE US
TO THE
OUTER
LANDS?

SO WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING IS
WE ATTACH
ACTIVATED
MEMORY
PARTICLES
TO THE
HULL OF
THE SHIP...

BUT EVEN
THOUGH
THE PILLAR
VANISHED,
IT ISN'T LIKE
ALL THE
MEMORY
PARTICLES
VANISHED
TOO.

KACHIK



...GUY USED
TO ALWAYS
THINK THE
BEST OF
PEOPLE,
AND I GUESS
THAT HASN'T
CHANGED.

TO
WORRY
ABOUT
TRASH
EVEN AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS...

GUY...

OH!

I'M ONLY
ALLOWING
YOU TO COME
ALONG TO
MAKE SURE
YOU AREN'T
MAKING
ANY FALSE
MOVES.

I'M
NOT
ABOUT
TO
TRUST
YOU,
YOU
KNOW.

..... AS
YOU
LIKE.

The sky is
blanketed
by miasma
and the
Outer
Lands...

It's just as
uncomfort-
able a
place as
the rumors
make it out
to be.

*Qliphoth
is Van's
home
country
as well.*

I WILL
REMAIN
BEHIND.

I
SUPPOSE
IT IS
YOUR HOME.

IS
THAT
SO?

クッ

オオ

It is the home of the watchers, bound by duty to guide history to conform to Yulia's Score.

But Van was raised in this city and he despises the Score.

What could it have been that twisted his mind...?

But Van
was
raised in
this city
and he
despises
the
Score

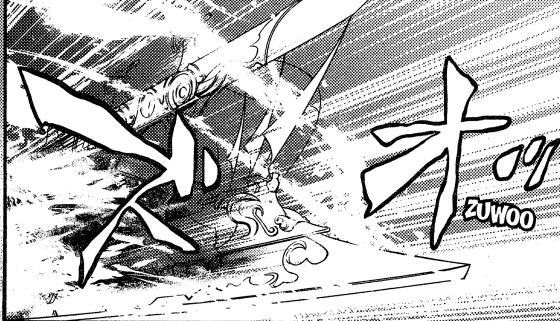
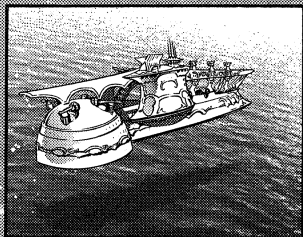
*What
could
it have
been that
twisted
his
mind...?*



SHAA/ASHI

GM
GM
GM
...

GM



SO?

SO ITS
SUCCESS
WAS
ASSURED.

THE
THEORY
WAS
SOUND.



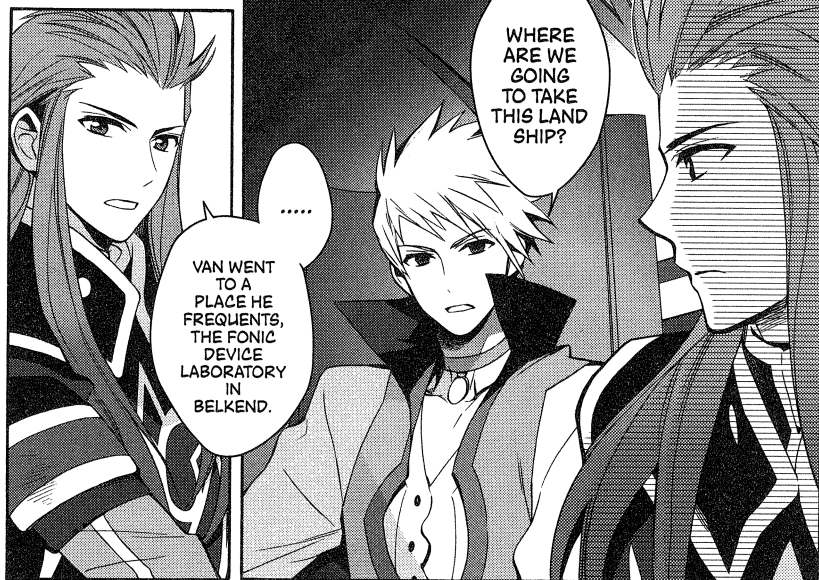
IT SEEMS
WE
MANAGED
TO ESCAPE
GLIPHOTH
SAFELY.



I'M
AMAZED
WE GOT
BACK.

IT'S
HARD TO
BELIEVE
THAT CAN
HOLD
UP THE
OUTER
LANDS.

IS THAT
TREE OF
LIGHT
THE
SEPHI-
ROTH?



WHERE
ARE WE
GOING
TO TAKE
THIS LAND
SHIP?

.....
VAN WENT
TO A
PLACE HE
FREQUENTS,
THE FONIC
DEVICE
LABORATORY
IN
BELKEND.



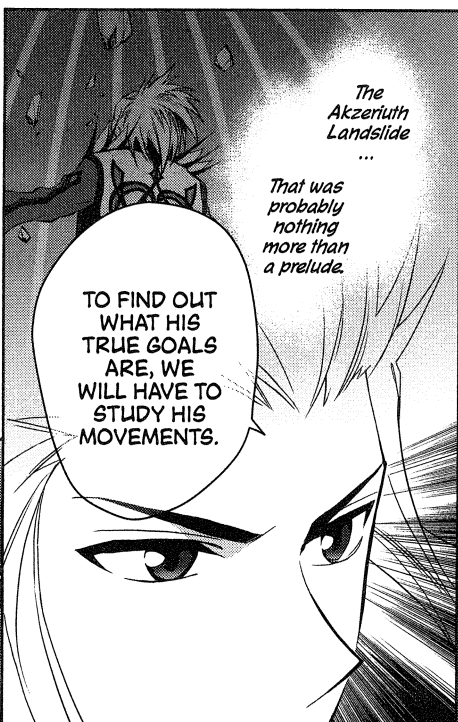
I WANT TO
BE ABLE
TO RETURN
TO DAATH
WITH FON
MASTER
ION.

WHY DON'T
YOU USE
YOUR
OWN
ARMY?



IF I DID,
VAN
WOULD
HEAR OF
EVERY
MOVE I
MAKE.

THAT ISN'T
POSSIBLE.



*The
Akzeriuth
Landslide*

...

*That was
probably
nothing
more than
a prelude.*

TO FIND OUT
WHAT HIS
TRUE GOALS
ARE, WE
WILL HAVE TO
STUDY HIS
MOVEMENTS.



I INTEND TO COOPERATE WITH ASCH, AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

I HAVE MY OWN INTERESTS IN THAT AS WELL.

NATALIA SPEAKS THE TRUTH.

I SEE NO PROBLEM HAVING HIM HERE.

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE REASON TO WANT TO KNOW VAN'S GOALS TOO.



BELKEND IS TO THE EAST OF OUR LOCATION.

SINCE HE IS A REGULAR VISITOR THERE, THAT MEANS IT MUST CONTAIN SOME SORT OF SECRET.

PRESENT LOCATION

BELKEND



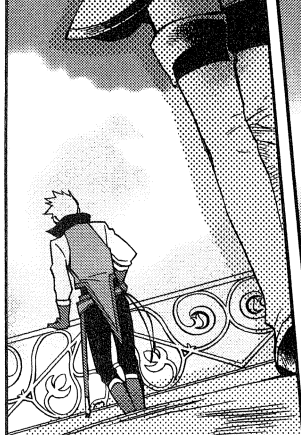
NATALIA, LEAVE HIM BE.

GUY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU LATELY?

..... I WONDER IF THIS WILL GO AS WELL AS WE THINK.

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M SURE WE'LL PICK UP CLUES THERE!





..... GUY...

...ARE YOU
WORRIED
ABOUT
LUKE?



...IF HE
FEELS
HE'S BEEN
ABANDONED
BY
EVERYONE
HE KNOWS.

HM? OH...
I WONDER...



WOW...
THAT WAS
INTENSE.

SAY,
COLONEL,
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

COULDN'T
SAY...



TH-THAT
DOESN'T
SOUND
LIKE
GUY...



WE'RE
HEADING
TO
BELKEND!





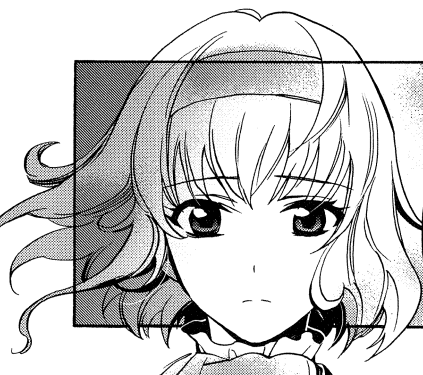
BUT
HE'S A
REPLICA.

EVERYONE
ELSE
IS SICK
OF HIS
IRRESPON-
SIBLE
WORDS.

YOU
WERE
ALWAYS
TOO
SOFT
ON
LUKE.



I THINK
NOW IS
WHEN HE
NEEDS
SOME
SUPPORT.



..... YOU
DO TOO.

I HAVE
A STAKE
IN THE
BLAME
FOR HOW
HE WAS
RAISED.

SEVEN
YEARS AGO
WHEN HE
CAME TO THE
ESTATE, IT
REALLY WAS
LIKE HE WAS
JUST BORN.



LUKE...

YOU
MAY BE
RIGHT.

THAT'S...
TRUE, I
SUPPOSE.





I THINK
THAT'S THE
JOB OF
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS
SUCH AS
YOU AND
ME.



..... SO
THAT'S
ANOTHER
WAY TO
LOOK
AT IT.



...WHO
WILL BE
THERE TO
SUPPORT
HIM?

...THEN THE
MAN WHOSE
VERY
EXISTENCE
WAS
FORGOTTEN
FOR SEVEN
YEARS,
ASCH...

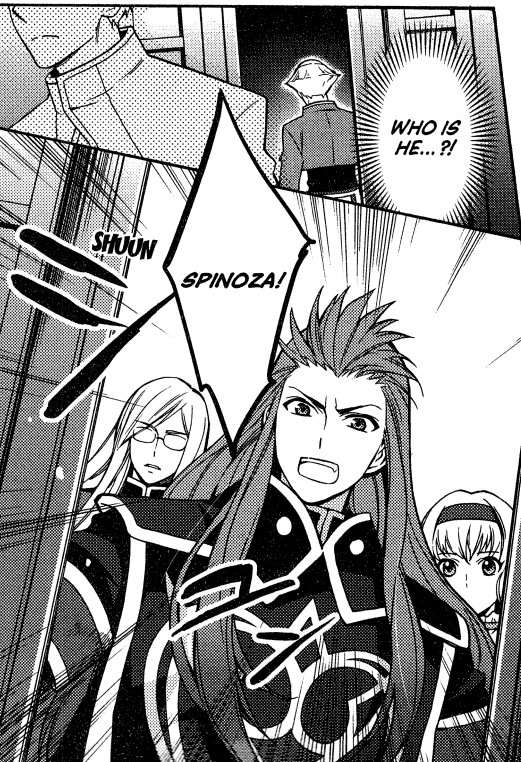


BUT IF
THAT'S
TRUE...





FONIC
DEVICE
LABORA-
TORY !



SHUUN

SPINOZA!

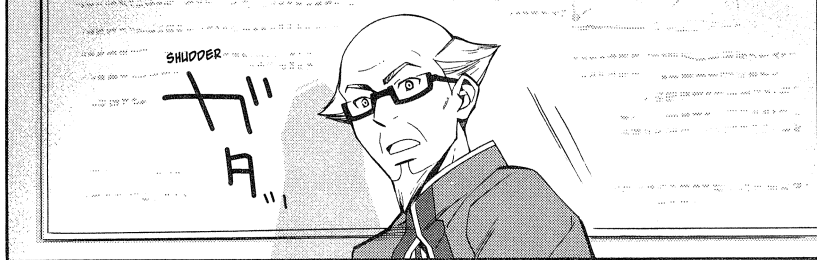
WHO IS
HE... ?!

CITY
OF FON
MACHINES
BELKEND

KANG

KANG

KANG



"TRAITOR?"

SPINOZA
HERE WAS
ONE OF THE
PEOPLE WHO
KIDNAPPED
ME...



HE'S THE
ONE WHO
BUILT MY
REPLICA.



IT IS
EXACTLY
AS YOU
SUSPECT,
JADE.

YOU CAN'T
MEAN
THAT HE
ATTEMPTED
THE
GREATEST
TABOO OF
FORMICRY!



OH...!
YOU ARE
LUKE?

NO...
YOU'RE
ASCH?!

YES! 

I'M AMAZED
THAT THE
TRAITOR OF
KIMLASCA
MANAGES
TO WANDER
THIS TOWN
WITHOUT A
CARE IN THE
WORLD.



..... NO. I
SHOULD
SAY DR.
JADE
BALFOUR.

YOU
ARE THE
FATHER OF
FORMICRY!

IT SHOULD
BE
FORBIDDEN
TO USE
FORMICRY
TO ALTER
LIVING
THINGS.

JADE?!
JADE THE
NECRO-
MANCER
?!



IS
"FORMICRY"
THE
TECHNIQUE
USED TO
MAKE
REPLICAS
... ?

THEN
HE
MADE
ME... ?

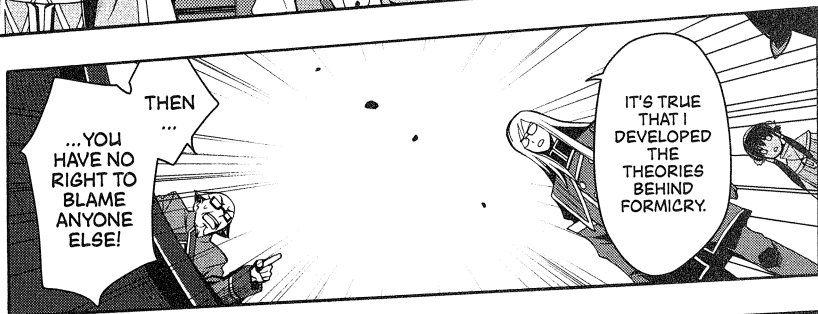
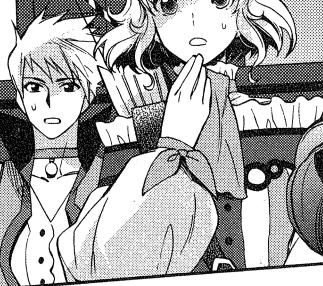
IF ONE IS A
RESEARCHER
INTO
FORMICRY,
THEN ONE
SHOULD AT
LEAST GET
A SINGLE
CHANCE TO
TEST IT!

YOU
TRIED IT
YOURSELF,
DIDN'T
YOU?!
JADE
CURTISS
?!





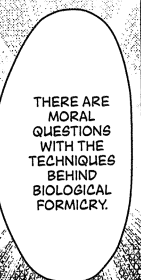
JADE,
THE FATHER
OF...?!



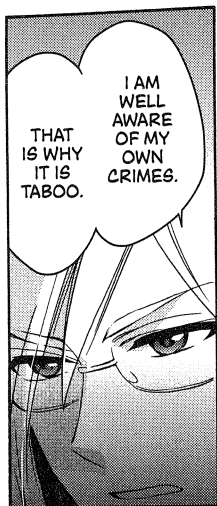
...YOU
HAVE NO
RIGHT TO
BLAME
ANYONE
ELSE!

THEN
...

IT'S TRUE
THAT I
DEVELOPED
THE
THEORIES
BEHIND
FORMICRY.

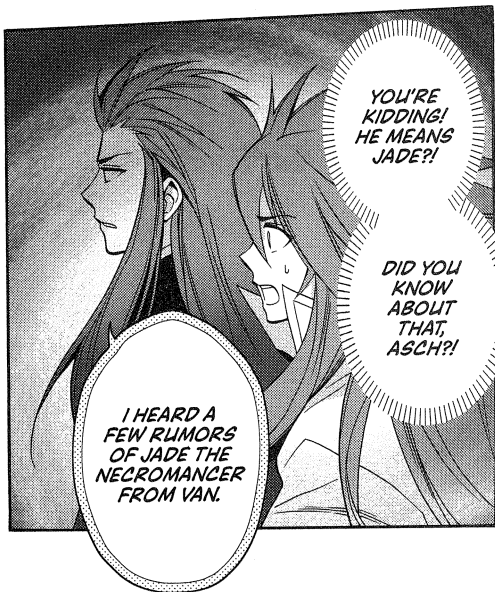


THERE ARE
MORAL
QUESTIONS
WITH THE
TECHNIQUES
BEHIND
BIOLOGICAL
FORMICRY.



THAT
IS WHY
IT IS
TABOO.

I AM
WELL
AWARE
OF MY
OWN
CRIMES.



YOU'RE
KIDDING!
HE MEANS
JADE?!

DID YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT,
ASCH?!

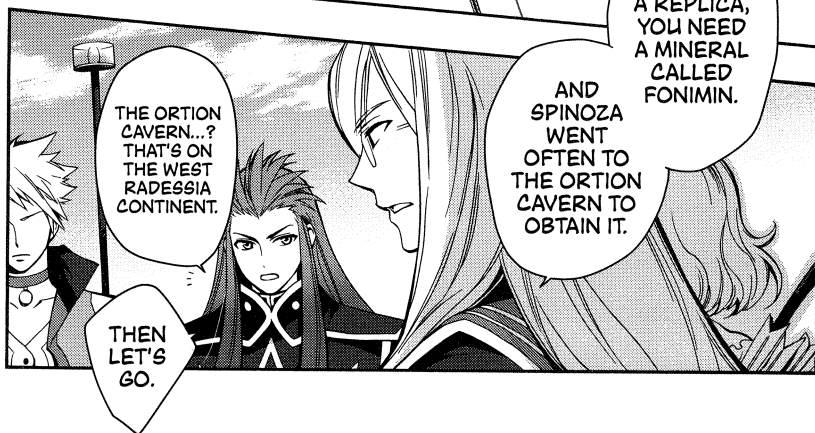
I HEARD A
FEW RUMORS
OF JADE THE
NECROMANCER
FROM VAN.







WE
HAVE
OUR
NEXT
CLUE.



TO BUILD
A REPLICA,
YOU NEED
A MINERAL
CALLED
FONIMIN.

AND
SPINOZA
WENT
OFTEN TO
THE ORTION
CAVERN TO
OBTAIN IT.

THE ORTION
CAVERN...?
THAT'S ON
THE WEST
RADESSIA
CONTINENT.

THEN
LET'S
GO.



**GUY
?!**

**I GET
OFF
HERE.**

I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
LUKE.

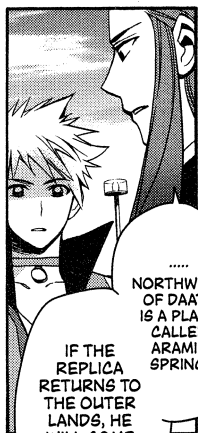
SOMEONE
HAS TO
BE THERE
FOR HIM.

..... I
SUPPOSE
HE IS
THE REAL
LUKE.

BUT
STILL
...

**GUY!
BUT...**

I HAVE TO
BELIEVE
HE WILL
BOUNCE
BACK
FROM
THIS.



GUY...

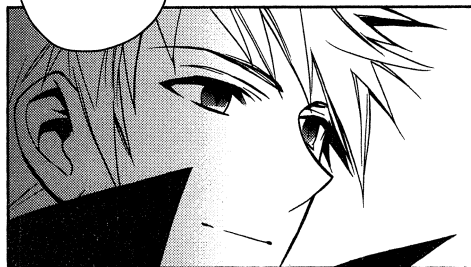
GUY,
THANK
YOU!

.....
NORTHWEST
OF DAATH
IS A PLACE
CALLED
ARAMIS
SPRING.

IF THE
REPLICA
RETURNS TO
THE OUTER
LANDS, HE
WILL COME
OUT THERE.



THE BIG
IDIOT IS
THE ONE
WHO IS
MY GOOD
FRIEND.



SORRY
ABOUT
THAT,
ASCH.



...THAT
WASN'T
THE
ONLY
REASON
I WENT.

WELL
...

DID YOU
HEAR
THAT
FROM
GENERAL
VAN?



...so it isn't
too much
of a stretch
of logic to
think that he
might hold
a grudge
against the
true son
of the man
he wanted
revenge
upon.

He
originally
came to
the fon
Fabre
estate
to get
revenge...



I KNEW
YOU
WOULD
CHOOSE
HIM.



IT ISN'T
MY NAME
ANYMORE.

DON'T
CALL
ME
THAT.



LUKE...

...AREN'T
YOU
GOING
TO STOP
HIM?



I'LL BE
OFF...

DMP



AND IF YOU
EVER WANT
TO GO TO
WHERE THAT
REPLICA IS,
FEEL FREE.

..... JUST
ALLOW
HIM TO
DO AS HE
WISHES.

BUT
...

IT MIGHT
BE A
PROBLEM
FOR
ANYONE.

EVEN
KNOWING
THE FACT
THAT
LUKE IS A
REPLICA...

I
WOULDN'T
...

I'D...



...BUT
THOSE
SEVEN
YEARS
SPENT
WITH
LUKE...

...HAVEN'T
EXACTLY
DISAPPEARED
EITHER...

GRIMP

It's...

WELL,
LET'S
SET THAT
ASIDE.





15002
2005H
15002
2005H

HAHH

HAHH

I HAVE
TO GO
HOME!

THIS ISN'T
WHERE I'M
SUPPOSED
TO BE!!

CHAPTER 10, ABNORMALITY



LUKE!

WHEN WE
GROW UP,
WE'RE GOING
TO GET
MARRIED,
YOU KNOW!

WE'RE
GOING TO
BE KING
AND
QUEEN!

HAHH

... YOU
WILL
ONE DAY
BECOME
THE KING
OF THE
NATION.

LUKE...

HAHH

MASTER
LUKE!

MASTER
LUKE!

IF I
DON'T
GET
HOME,
EVERY-
BODY
WILL...

EVERY-
BODY'S
WAITING
FOR ME!

GRRRR



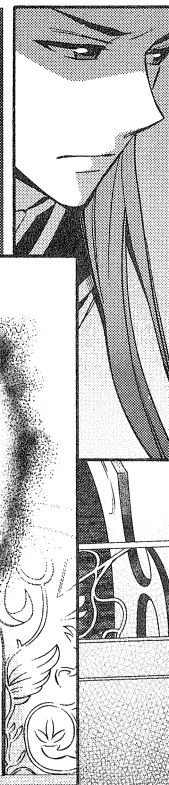
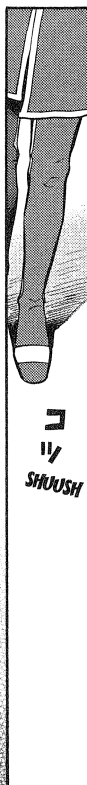
**...HAVE
TO GET
HOME!!**

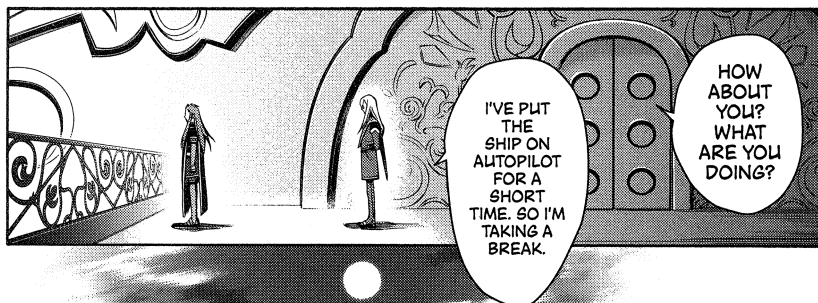
**I SAID
THAT
I...**

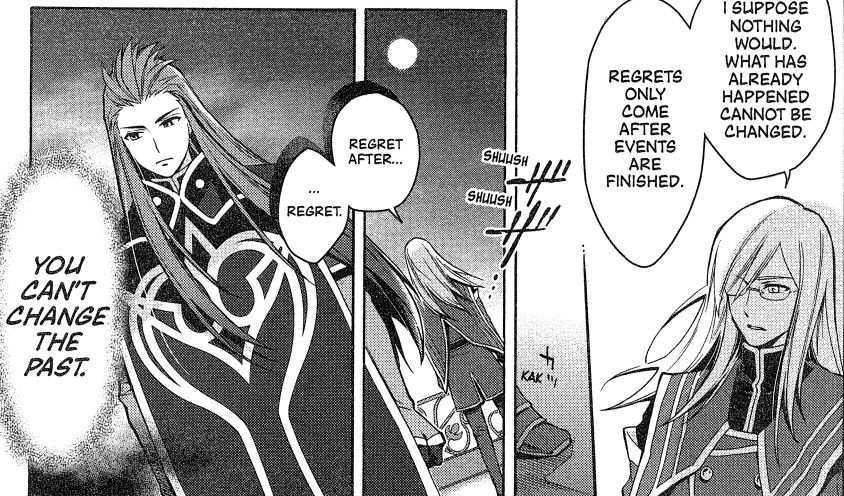


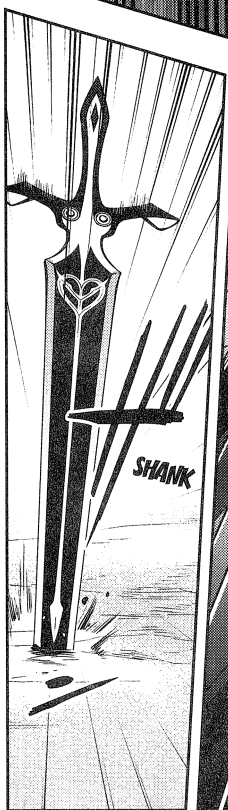


**DON'T GO
SPYING
INTO MY
DREAMS!**











THAT WAS JUST WONDERFUL!

YOU CERTAINLY MAKE IT EASY FOR US.

THAT'S ASCH THE BLOODY FOR YOU!

OH
おー



C--

CUT YOUR COMPLAINING!

WE HAVE TO KEEP MOV--

HUMPH... SMALL FRY.





I'M ALL
RIGHT.

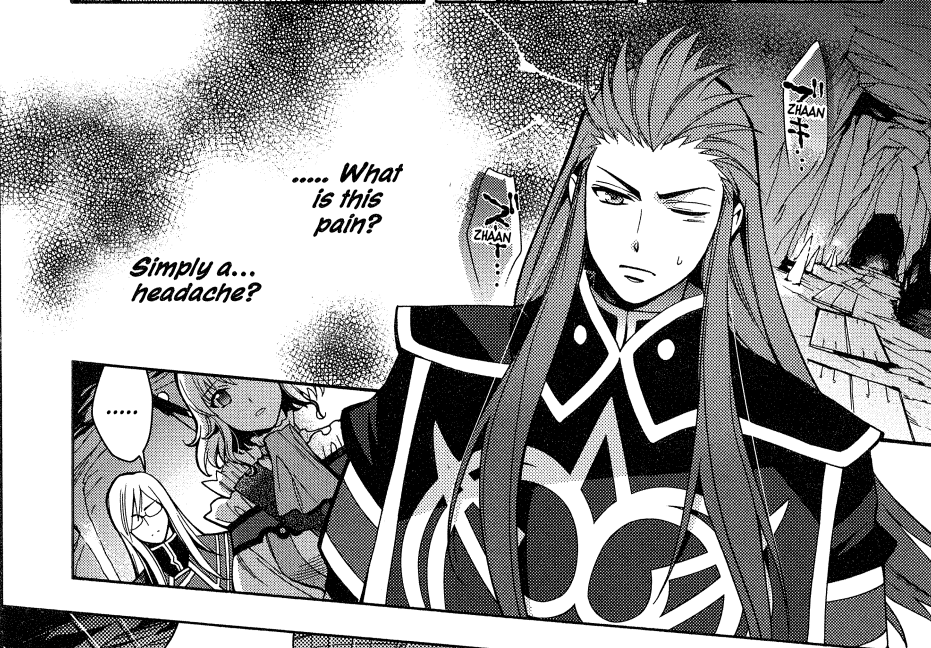


PLEASE
WAIT A
MOMENT!
I'LL
USE MY
HEALING
TO...



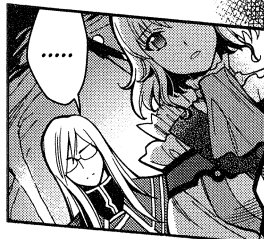
WERE
YOU
HURT
SOME-
WHERE
IN THIS
LAST
BATTLE?

ASCH
?!



..... What
is this
pain?

Simply a...
headache?

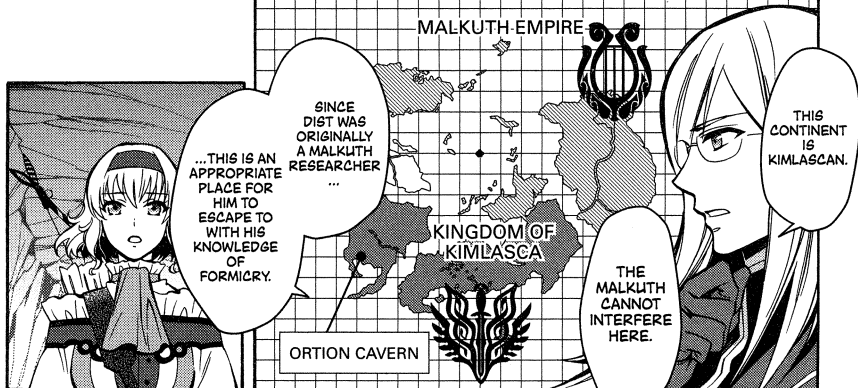


.....



WOW!
AMAZING!







TO
REALLY
KNOW
THE
TRUTH...

...YOU MUST
USE YOUR
OWN EYES
AND LEGS TO
MAKE SURE.



WHAT
YOU
SEEM
TO BE
SEEING
IS THE
ILLUSION
OF LUKE.

DURING
THE SEVEN
YEARS
OF MY
ABDUCTION,
THE "LUKE"
WITHIN ME
DIED!

THAT
ISN'T
TRUE!



DON'T
GET THE
WRONG
IDEA.



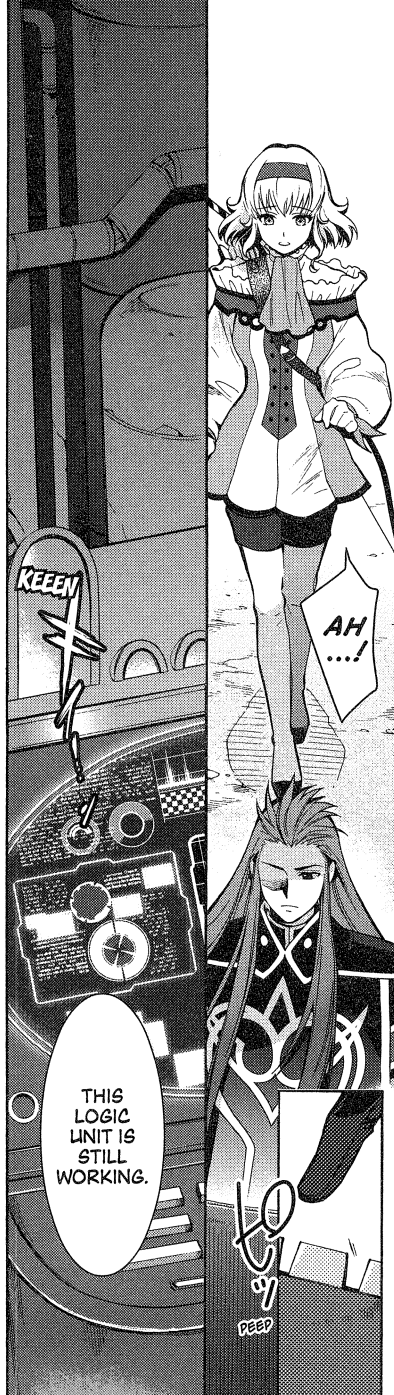
UNTIL YOU
DO, NOTHING
IN THIS
COUNTRY'S
POLITICS
WILL
IMPROVE.

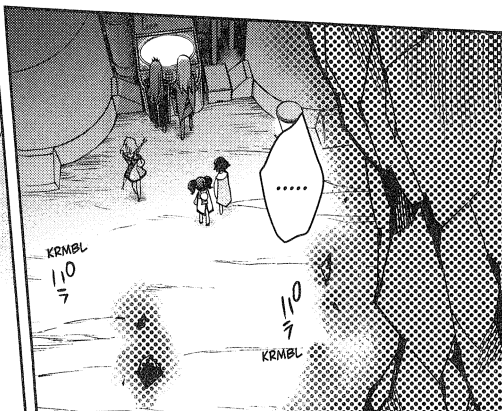
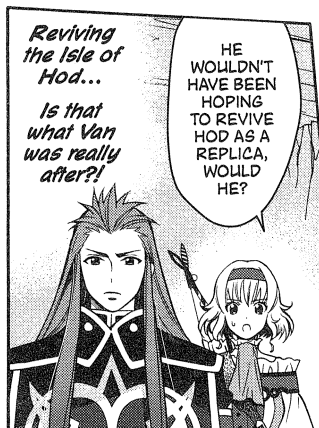
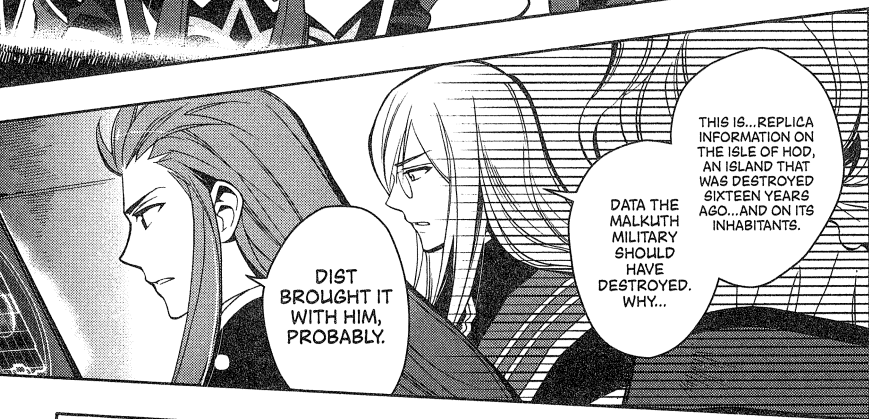


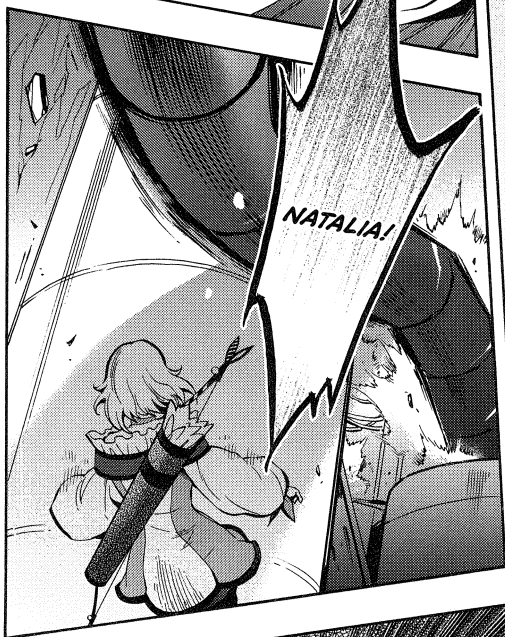
YOU ALWAYS
DID SEE WHERE
THE COUNTRY
WAS HEADED
AND HELPED
SAVE ME FROM
MY SHORT-
COMINGS!

YOU
WERE
THE
SAME AS
A CHILD!

..... YOU
NEVER
CHANGE,
DO YOU?







*But that
doesn't
add up with
creating the
landslide at
Akzeriuth...*

IN ANY
CASE,
LET'S
TAKE THIS
INFOR-
MATION
WITH US,
AND...

RUMB

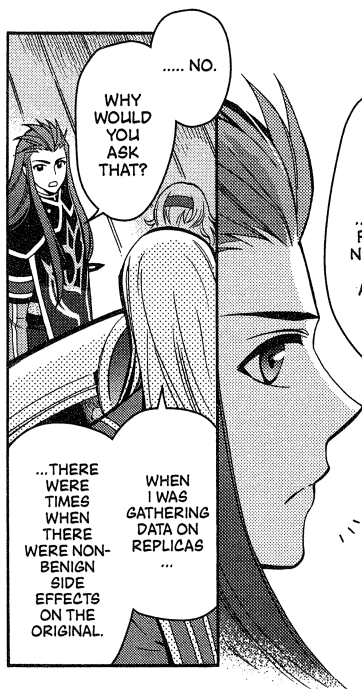
RUMB

KYAA!

WHAT
?!

WHAT
IS
THIS?!

RUMB



..... NO.

WHY
WOULD
YOU
ASK
THAT?

...THERE
WERE
TIMES
WHEN
THERE
WERE NON-
BENIGN
SIDE
EFFECTS
ON THE
ORIGINAL.

WHEN
I WAS
GATHERING
DATA ON
REPLICAS
...



ASIDE
FROM
YOUR
HEAD-
ACHE...

...DID YOU
FEEL ANY
NUMBNESS
IN YOUR
ARMS OR
LEGS?

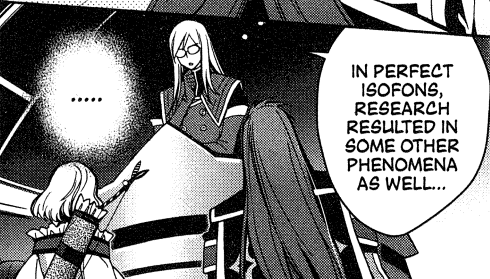
..... IT'S
NOTHING.



?!

...IT
CAUSED
DEATH.

AND
IN THE
WORST
CASES...



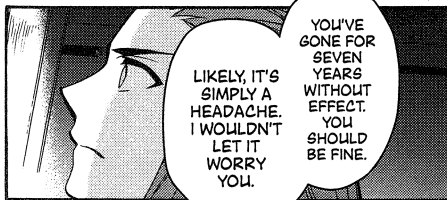
IN PERFECT
ISOFGNS,
RESEARCH
RESULTED IN
SOME OTHER
PHENOMENA
AS WELL...



YOU
NEEDN'T
WORRY.

FOR
ORGANICS
IT WAS
EVEN
QUICKER.

THE TIME IN
WHICH THE
ABNORMALITIES
ON THE
ORIGINAL WERE
RECORDED
WERE WITHIN
TEN DAYS FOR
INORGANIC
MATTER.



LIKELY, IT'S
SIMPLY A
HEADACHE.
I WOULDN'T
LET IT
WORRY
YOU.

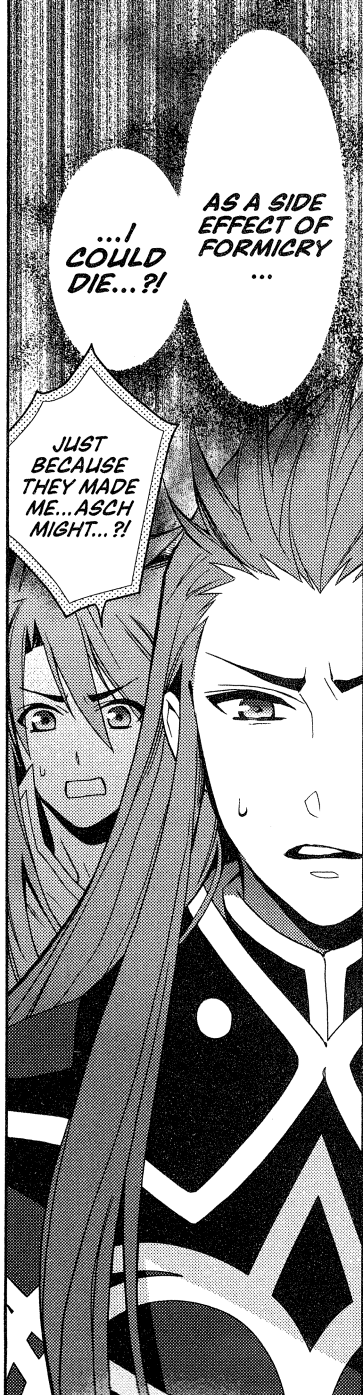
YOU'VE
GONE FOR
SEVEN
YEARS
WITHOUT
EFFECT.
YOU
SHOULD
BE FINE.



OH,
GOOD.

Don't
scare
me like
that...

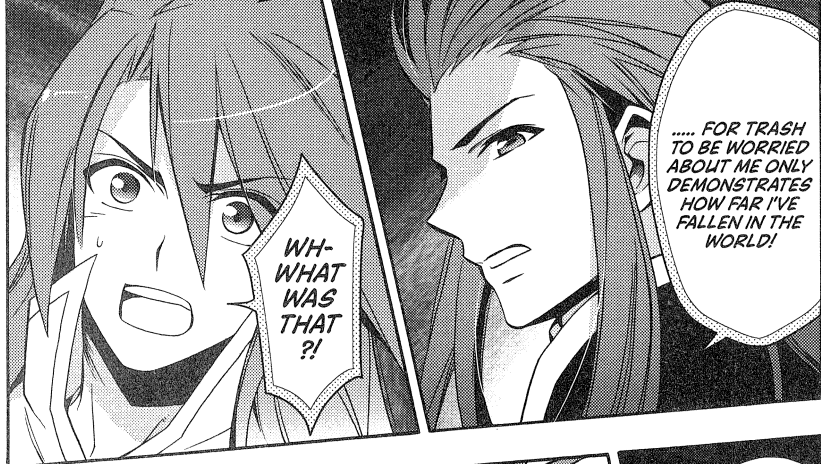
THANK
GOOD-
NESS!



...I
COULD
DIE...?!

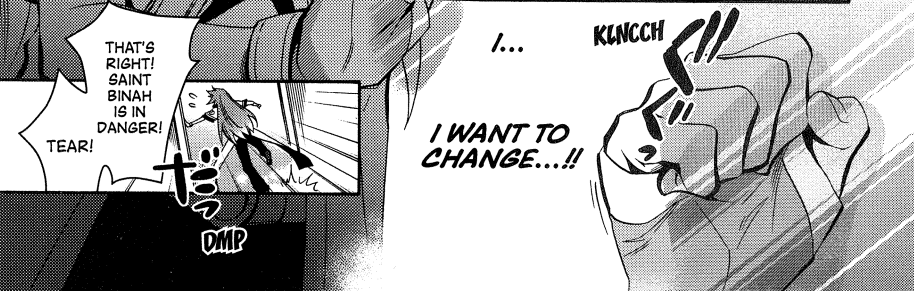
AS A SIDE
EFFECT OF
FORMICRY
...

JUST
BECAUSE
THEY MADE
ME... ASCH
MIGHT... ?!



LWAAH ...!

Master!!



DAATH HARBOR...

ASCH...

THEREFORE
WE SHALL
CONTINUE
TO USE THE
LANDSHIP AS
WE HAVE.

IT LOOKS
LIKE OUR
JOB NEEDS
TO BE
RESCUING
THE PEOPLE
OF SAINT
BINAH,
DON'T YOU
AGREE?

ASCH...
UM...

YOU MEAN
THAT YOU'VE
ALSO
FORGOTTEN
...

...OUR
PROMISE
...?

I'VE
ABANDONED
MY PAST!

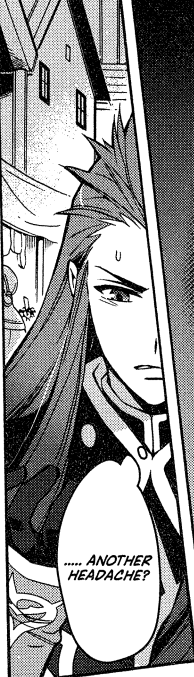
NATALIA...
FORGET
ABOUT
ME.

I AM
NOT
WHO I
USED
TO BE.





**THIS
MEANS...
NO...!**



**..... ANOTHER
HEADACHE?**



TRMBL

TRMBL

?!

**"DID YOU
FEEL ANY
NUMBNESS
IN YOUR
ARMS OR
LEGS?"**



**A
"PRESERVATION
PLAN"
INCLUDING
SAVED
INFORMATION
ON REPLICAS...
PLUS
LANDSLIDES
IN THE OUTER
LANDS...**

**I THINK I'M
BEGINNING
TO SEE VAN'S
GOALS LITTLE
BY LITTLE.**

**BUT IT
DOESN'T
CONNECT
UP YET!**

OW!

ZHAAN



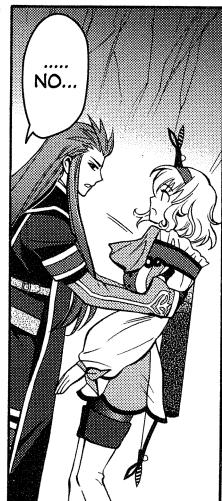
RMMB

RMMB

RMMB

RMMB...

..... AH!

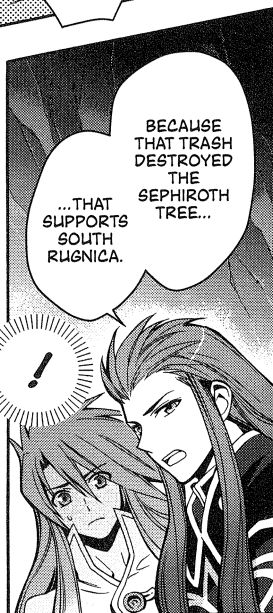




THIS
EARTH-
QUAKE...

...IT COULD
BE A PART
OF SOUTH
RUGNICA
FALLING IN A
LANDSLIDE.

NO! BUT
WHY?!



BECAUSE
THAT TRASH
DESTROYED
THE
SEPHIROTH
TREE...

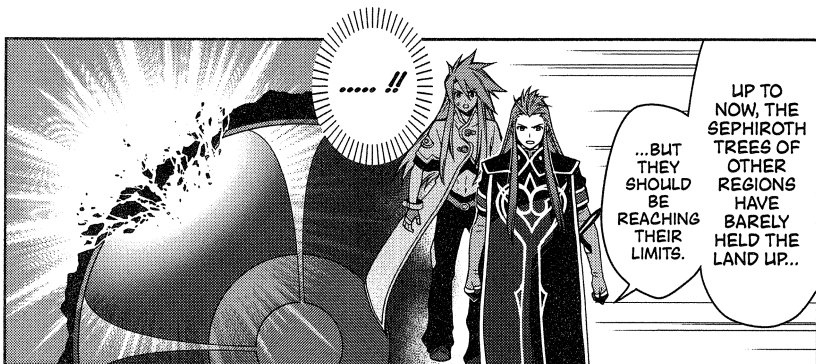
...THAT
SUPPORTS
SOUTH
RUGNICA.

!



But
when-
ever
I'm
with
her
I...

TWIRL!



.....!!

...BUT
THEY
SHOULD
BE
REACHING
THEIR
LIMITS.

UP TO
NOW, THE
SEPHIROTH
TREES OF
OTHER
REGIONS
HAVE
BARELY
HELD THE
LAND UP...



**BUT
VAN
WAS
ABLE
TO
MOVE
THEM!**

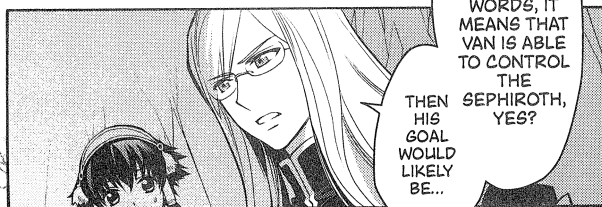
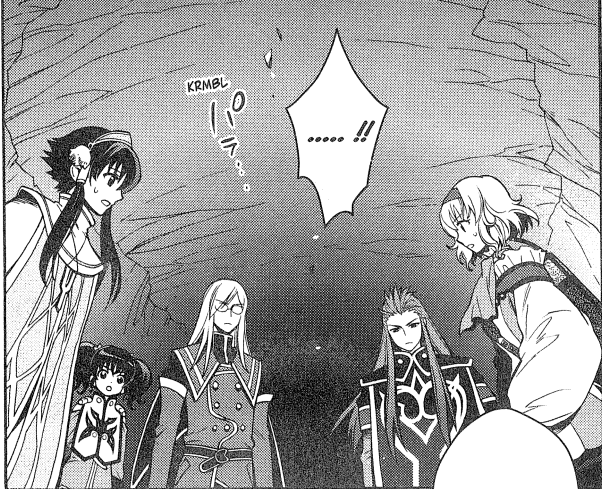
NOBODY
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO USE
THEM.

BUT EVEN
WITH THE
DOORS
OPEN, THE
PASSAGE
RINGS ARE
LOCKED
WITH
YULIAN
SEALS.



HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
HOW WE
CAPTURED
THE FON
MASTER AND
HAD HIM
OPEN THE
SEPHIROTH
DOORS?

YOU MEAN
THERE'D
BE AN
EFFECT
ON OTHER
REGIONS?



IN OTHER WORDS, IT
MEANS THAT
VAN IS ABLE
TO CONTROL
THE
SEPHIROTH,
YES?
THEN
HIS
GOAL
WOULD
LIKELY
BE...



...TO
COLLAPSE
EVEN
MORE
OF THE
OUTER
LANDS?!



THERE ARE THINGS I WANT TO INVESTIGATE ON MY OWN.

SO THIS IS WHERE WE PART WAYS.

YOU'RE KIDDING! ANOTHER LANDSLIDE ...?!

ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO STOP HIM?!



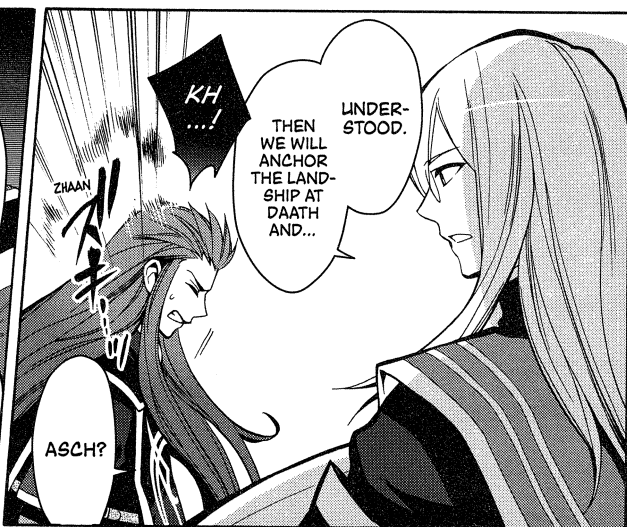
VAN SAID THAT SAINT BINAH WOULD BE NEXT.



WHAT IS IT?

ASCH ...?!

.....
Linn!



KH ...!

THEN WE WILL ANCHOR THE LANDSHIP AT DAATH AND...

UNDERSTOOD.

ASCH?



Another headache...?



THEY SAY
AKZERIUITH
COLLAPSED
IN A
LANDSLIDE!



THAT'S
KIND OF
SCARY...

NO
...!



"THERE IS
NOTHING
TO FEAR!
THE WORLD
HAS YET TO
DEVIATE FROM
THE SCORE."
THAT'S WHAT
HE SAID!

BUT
ACCORDING
TO GRAND
MAESTRO
MOHS...



CHING



*The
world's
still going
by the
Score...?*

*But in
reality..*

CHAPTER 11, COMPLICATION 1



WARR

3.5

URN

.....



FOR THE
LAND TO
CRUMBLE
THIS
EASILY...

...THE
OUTER
LANDS
ARE MORE
FRAGILE
THAN I
THOUGHT.

RMMB
コ RMMB
コ



WE'LL HEAD
TO OUR
NEXT DUTY.

WE'LL
PULL OUT
IMMEDIATELY!

FWISH



*Asch...
That fool
got caught
up in it..*

DIVISION
COMMANDER...

...WE'VE
COMPLETED
OUR
MEASURE-
MENTS
OF THE
COLLAPSE
RADIUS.

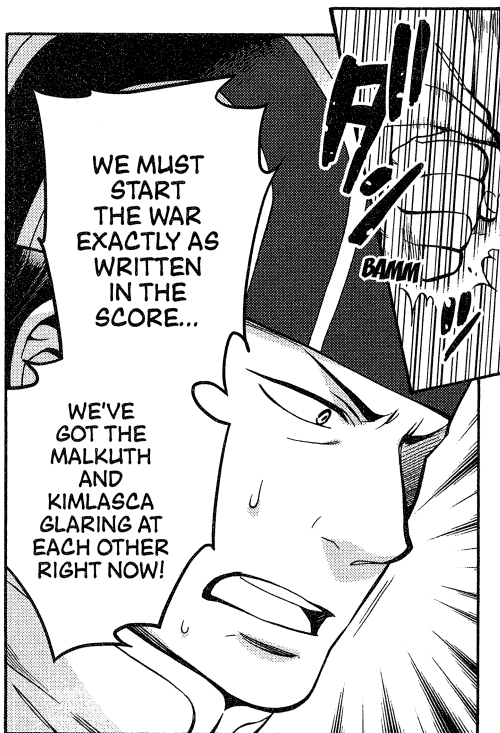


DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS?!

WHAT IS VAN DOING?!



WELL, I TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT!
I'M ONLY RELIEVED THAT MY "OBSERVER" ROLE IS FINISHED!



WE MUST START THE WAR EXACTLY AS WRITTEN IN THE SCORE...

WE'VE GOT THE MALKUTH AND KIMLASCA GLARING AT EACH OTHER RIGHT NOW!



THE GENERAL IS DOING JUST AS GRAND MAESTRO MOHS ORDERED...
...CURRENTLY ON HIS OWN IN ORDER TO SECRETLY BRING YOUR PLAN TO FRUITION.

CONTACTING HIM WOULD BE DIFFICULT.



GWOO!!

7!!

LIWA-AAH!!



7
EEEE

WHO ARE YOU?!



...SOME KIMLASCAN SNEAK ATTACK...?!

NOT ...

THE
RUGNICAN
PLAINS,
MALKUTH
MILITARY
BASE...

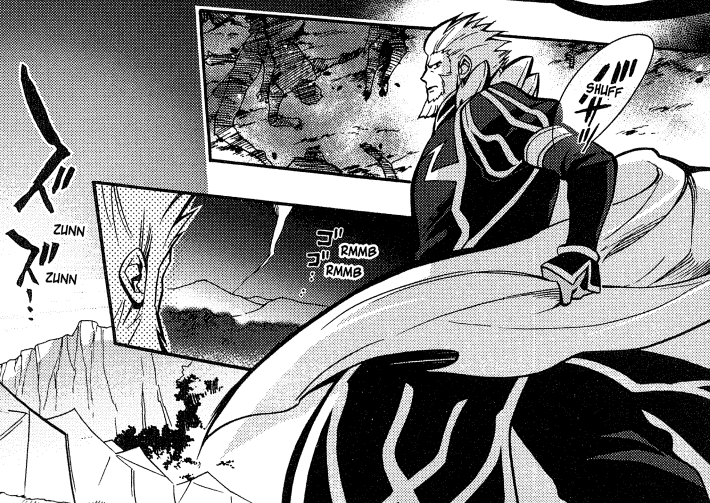
THERE
IS NO
NEED FOR
CONCERN.

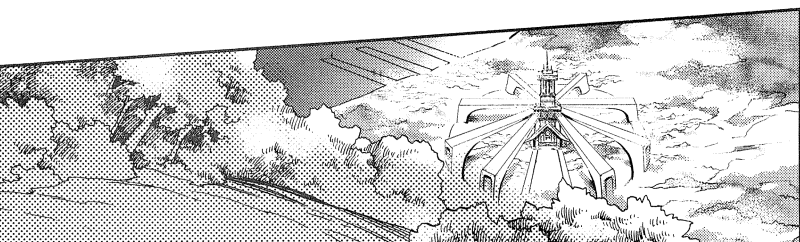
THE SIX GOD
GENERALS
HAVE
ALREADY
RECEIVED
ORDERS
FROM THE
GENERAL...

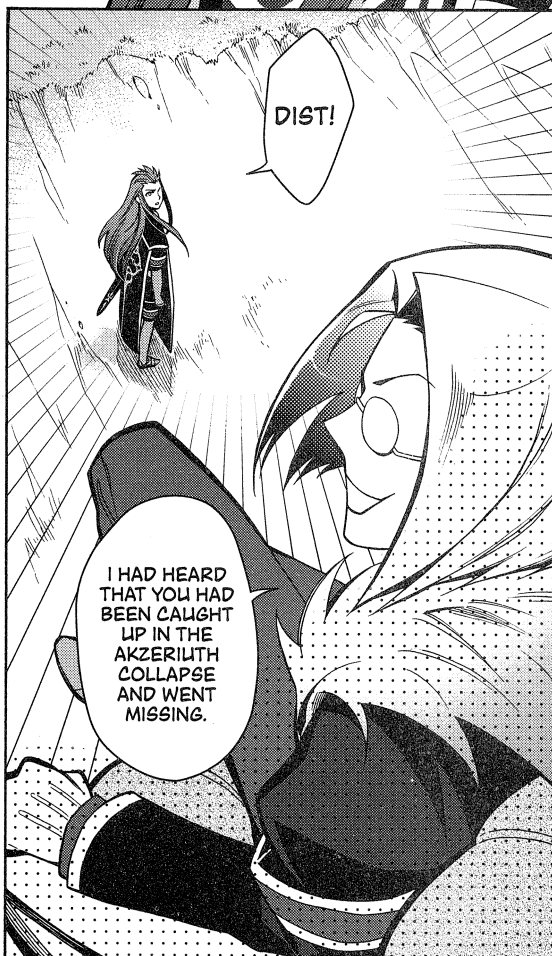
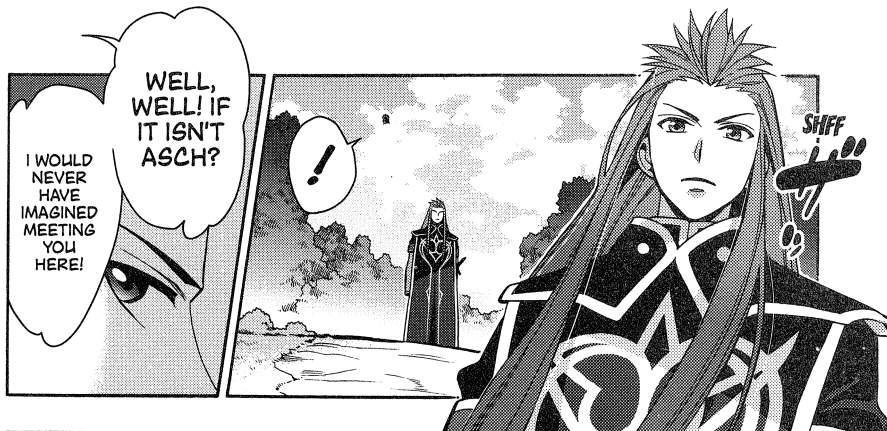
...AND ARE
ACTING
ACCORDINGLY.



AT THE
SAME
MOMENT
IN THE
KIMLASCAN
MILITARY
BASE...









ANSWER
ME!!

WHAT
WAS
VAN
AIMING
AT?!

COMPRE-
HENSIVE
DATA ON
ORGANISMS
AND
INORGANIC
MATTER
BOTH!

THAT WAS
EXTREMELY
VALUABLE
DATA!



OH, YOU
ARE WELL
INFORMED
!

YOU WERE
GATHERING
INFORMATION
FOR A
REPLICA OF
HOD, RIGHT?



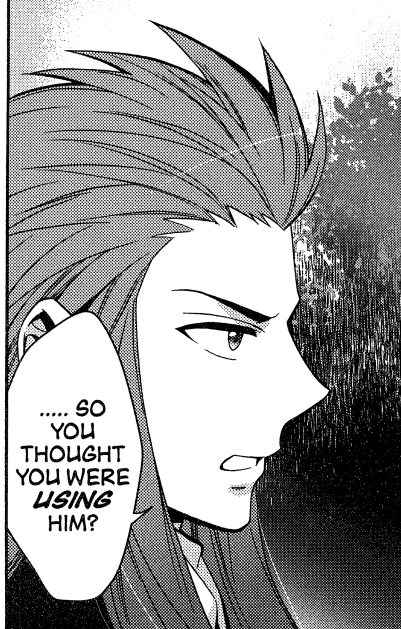
VAN'S
AIM?

WHO
KNOWS?

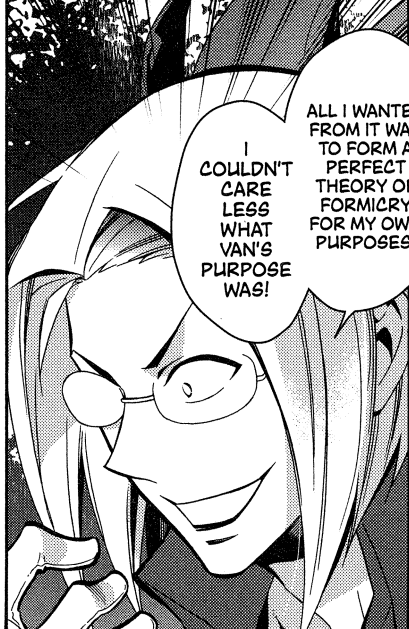
I KNOW I
CERTAINLY
HADN'T
THE LEAST
INTEREST!



WHAT?

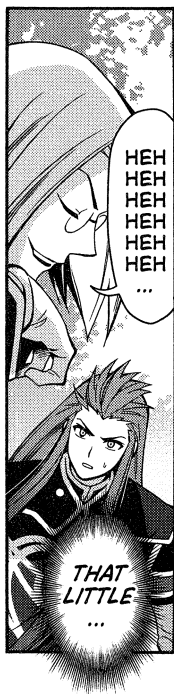


..... SO
YOU
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
USING
HIM?



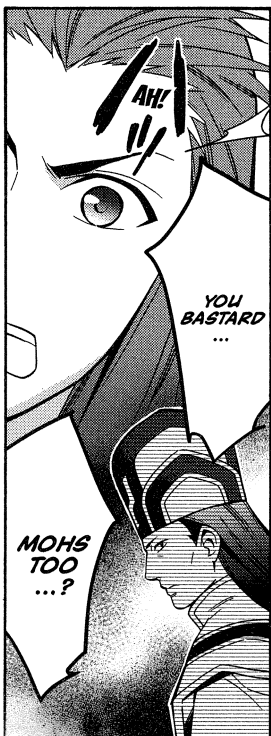
I
COULDN'T
CARE
LESS
WHAT
VAN'S
PURPOSE
WAS!

ALL I WANTED
FROM IT WAS
TO FORM A
PERFECT
THEORY OF
FORMICRY
FOR MY OWN
PURPOSES!



HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
...

**THAT
LITTLE**
...



AH!
//
//

**YOU
BASTARD**
...

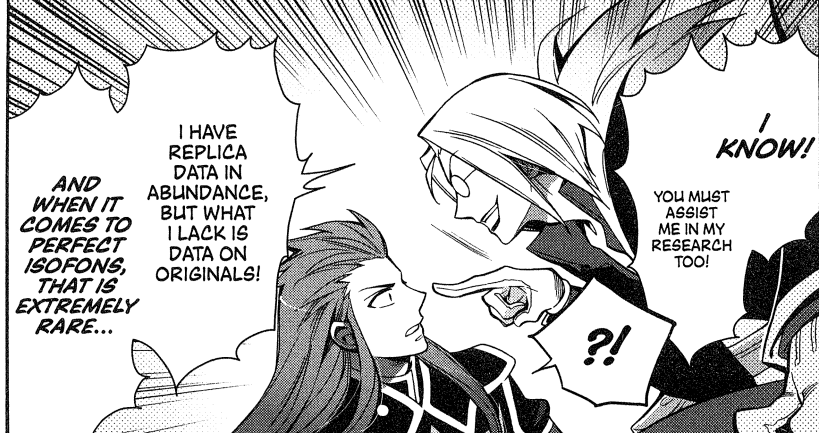
**MOHS
TOO
...?**



HEH...



**EVERYONE IS
COOPERATING
IN MY
RESEARCH!**



AND
WHEN IT
COMES TO
PERFECT
ISOFONS,
THAT IS
EXTREMELY
RARE...

I HAVE
REPLICA
DATA IN
ABUNDANCE,
BUT WHAT
I LACK IS
DATA ON
ORIGINALS!

I
KNOW!

YOU MUST
ASSIST
ME IN MY
RESEARCH
TOO!

?!



THERE'S
NO TIME
FOR
THAT...

CUT
THE
CRAP!

OH,
DEAR!
OH,
DEAR!

OH?

KH...

PAIN
LIKE
THAT...

YES, OF
COURSE!
THAT
MUST
BE IT!

IT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE TO
MOVE BEYOND
THEORY WITH
ANYTHING
BUT PERFECT
ISOFONS! AND
I SEE THE
PHENOMENON
WITH MY OWN
EYES...!!

"AND
IN THE
WORST
CASES, IT
CAUSED
DEATH."

*Fonon...
disasso-
ciation
...?*

YOU CAN'T
MEAN THAT
EVEN AT THIS
LATE DATE WE
HAVE FONON
DISASSOC-
CIATION
?!

*That was
what Jade
was talking
about!!*

"IN PERFECT
ISOFONS,
RESEARCH
RESULTED IN
SOME OTHER
PHENOMENA
AS WELL..."

ASCH,
PLEASE! MY
RESEARCH
NEEDS
YOU....!!

HYUU

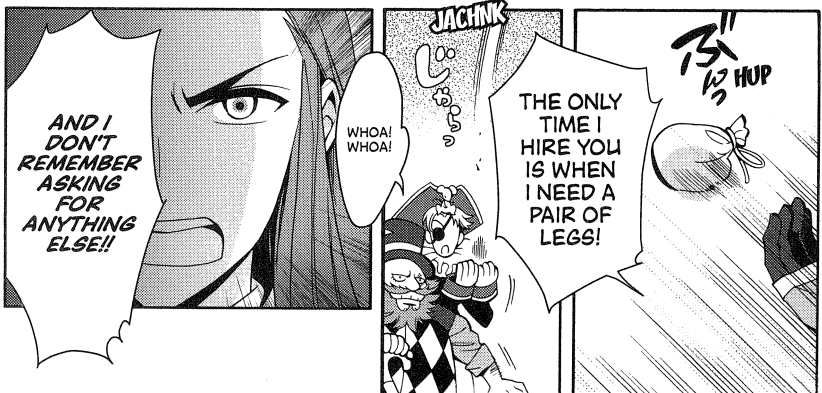
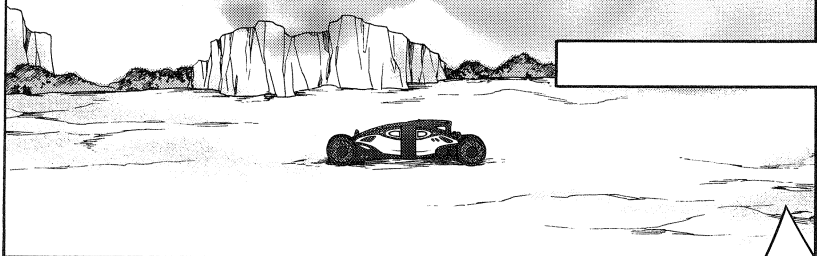
HEY,
DIST!
THAT'S
...

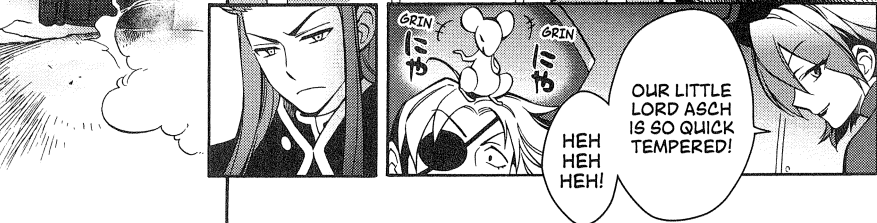
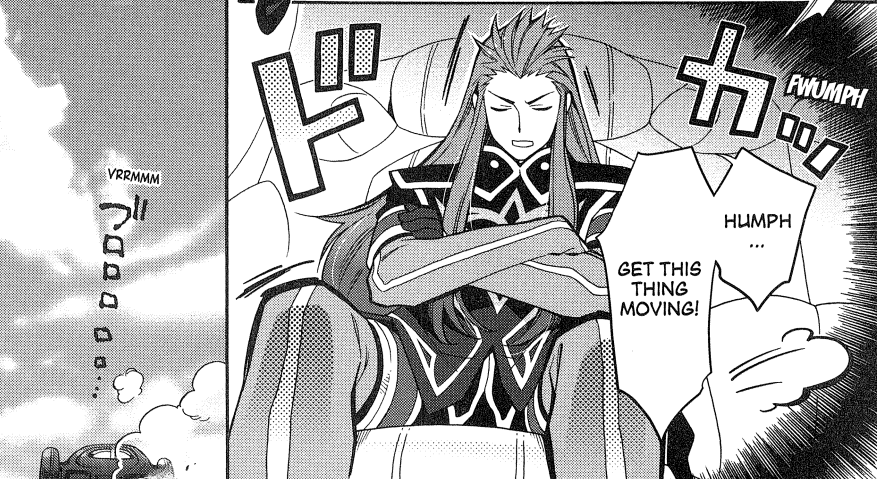


WHA
--?!



.....
ASCH?







EVERYONE,
I WANT TO
SAY I'M
SORRY FOR
EVERYTHING
THAT I'VE
DONE SO
FAR!!
I JUST...



LUKE,
YOU
CUT
YOUR
HAIR...

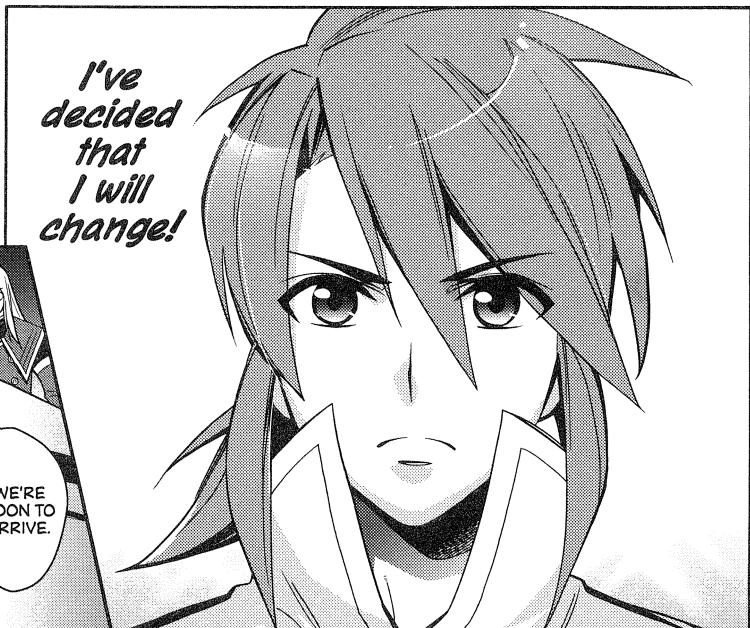
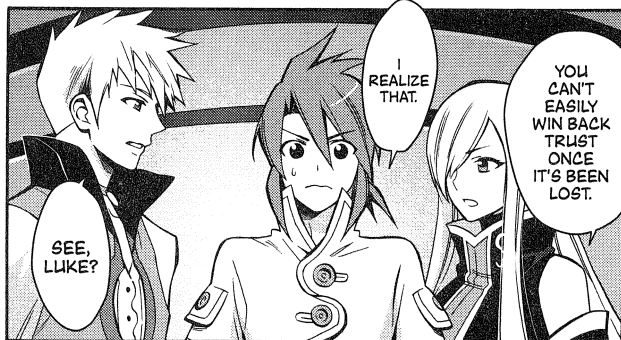


*The
fonons
that
make
up my
body...*

*Fonon
disasso-
ciation...
he said?*

*...their bonds
are starting
to lose
cohesion...?*





THE
CITADEL,
SAINT
BINAH



LET'S
HURRY
UP WITH
THE
RESCUE
!!

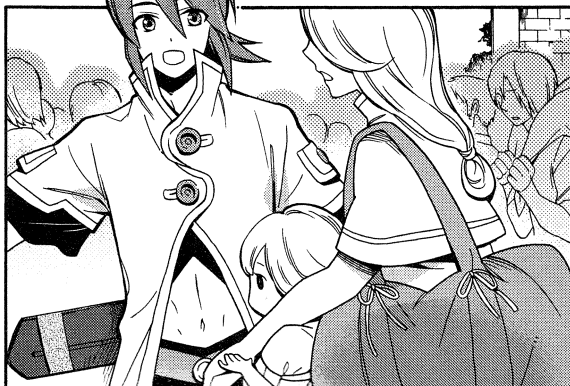


EVERYONE
STAY CALM
AND COME
THIS WAY!

ANOTHER
EARTH-
QUAKE?



IT'S ALL
RIGHT! NO
NEED TO
PANIC!





IT IS THE
ARRIVAL
OF A TOP-
FLIGHT
RESCUER.



HEY,
BOSS!

WE'RE
HERE!



*It looks
like I
can
entrust
the
rescue
to them.
Then I
should
track
Van's
move-
ments.*



*A sealed
door
leading
to a
Sephiroth
Tree should
be here.*

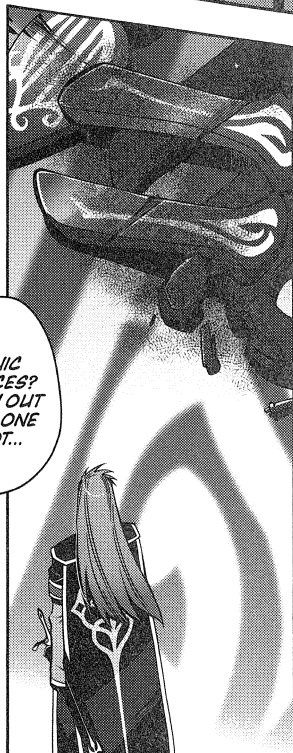
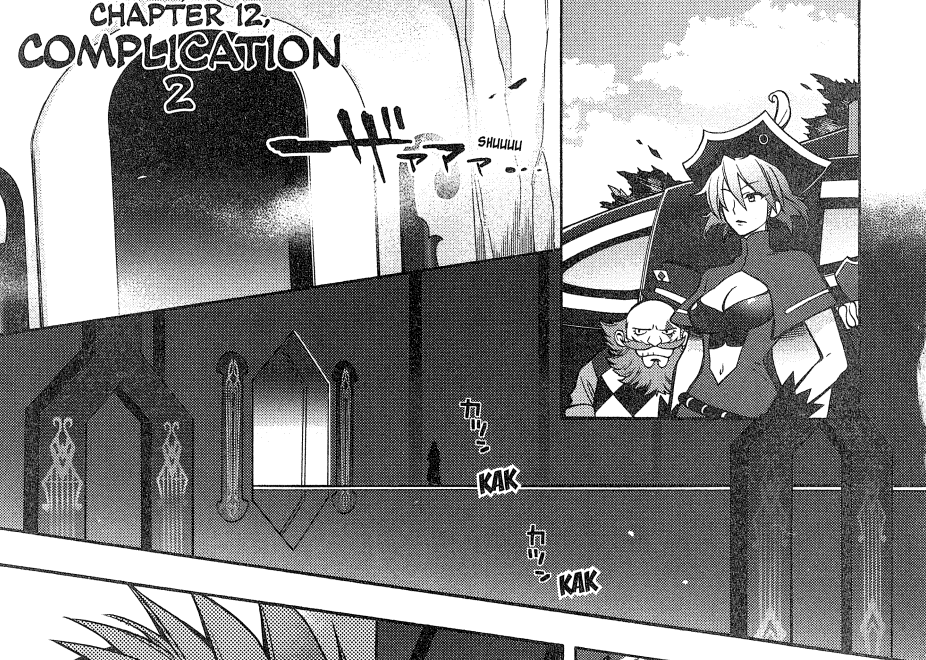
WHAT'S
S'POSED
TO BE IN
A PLACE
LIKE
THIS?

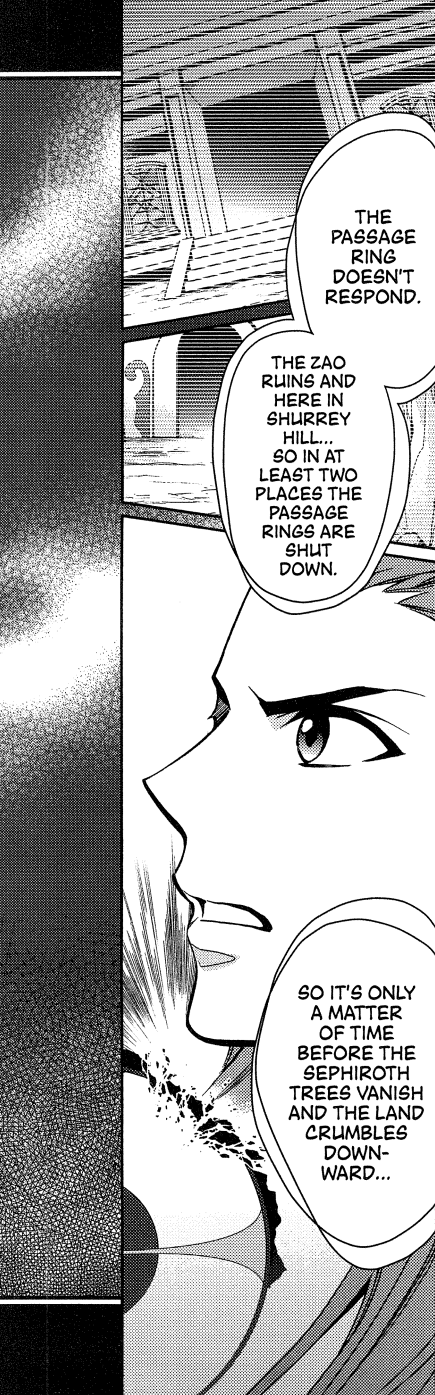
BUT
IT'S
LEFT
OPEN.

**SO THIS
PLACE
TOO...!!**

SHK

CHAPTER 12, COMPLICATION 2

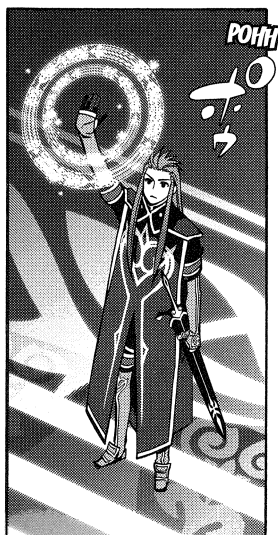
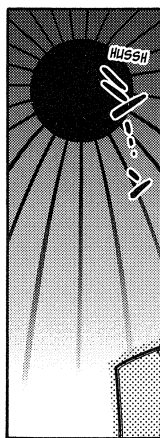
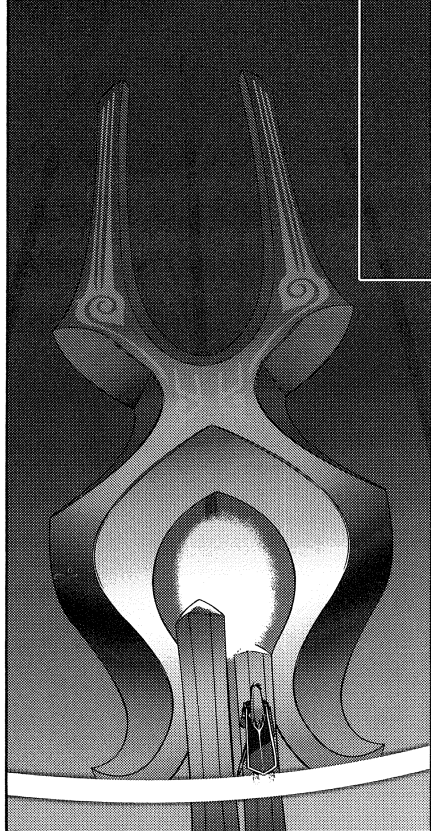




THE
PASSAGE
RING
DOESN'T
RESPOND.

THE ZAO
RUINS AND
HERE IN
SHURREY
HILL...
SO IN AT
LEAST TWO
PLACES THE
PASSAGE
RINGS ARE
SHUT
DOWN.

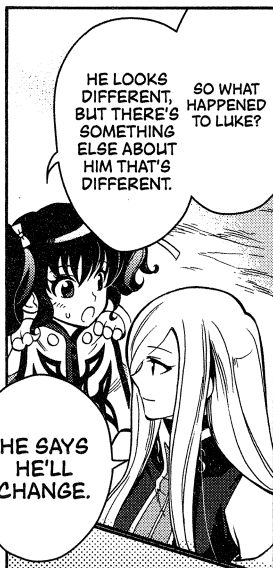
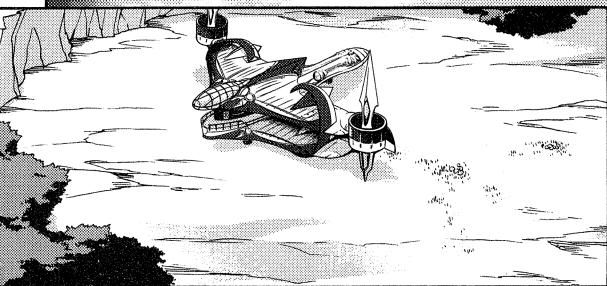
SO IT'S ONLY
A MATTER
OF TIME
BEFORE THE
SEPHIROTH
TREES VANISH
AND THE LAND
CRUMBLES
DOWN-
WARD...





**VAN WAS
DEFINITELY
HERE!**

**SO
WHERE
DID
HE GO
NEXT?!**





.....
ASCH...

GWOOO



EVEN IF
IT'S JUST
A LITTLE
AT A
TIME...



STILL
...

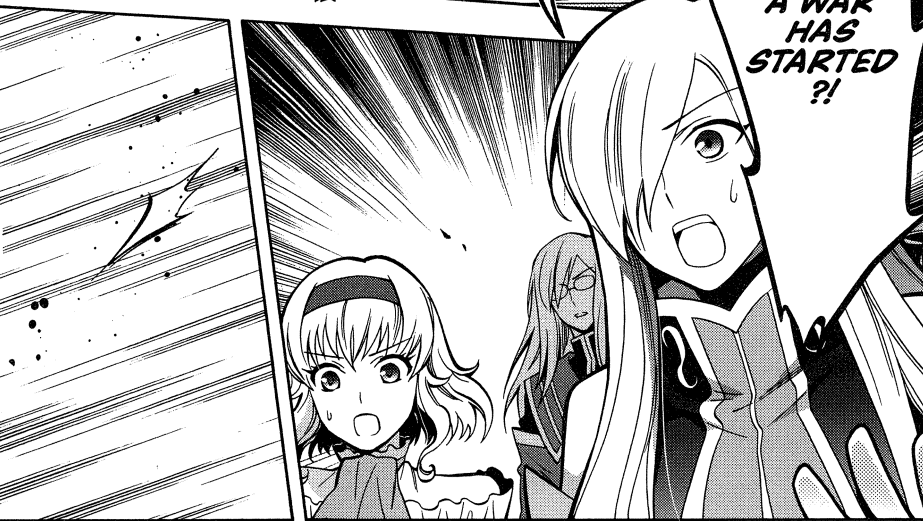
...WE
CAN'T SAY
ANYTHING
ABOUT THE
SAFETY OF
THOSE IN
OTHER
REGIONS.

...BUT AT
LEAST I'M
GLAD WE
WERE ABLE
TO RESCUE
THE
CITIZENS.
THE TOWN
OF SAINT
BINAH
CRUMBLLED
DOWN...



HYAA/AAA/AA/AA/AA

A WAR
HAS
STARTED
?!





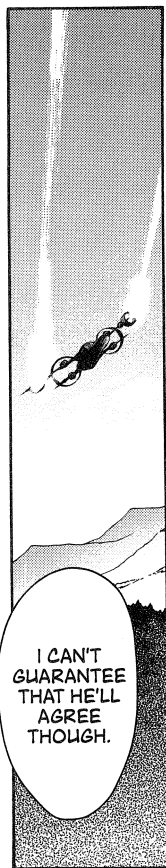


AS
YOU
WISH.

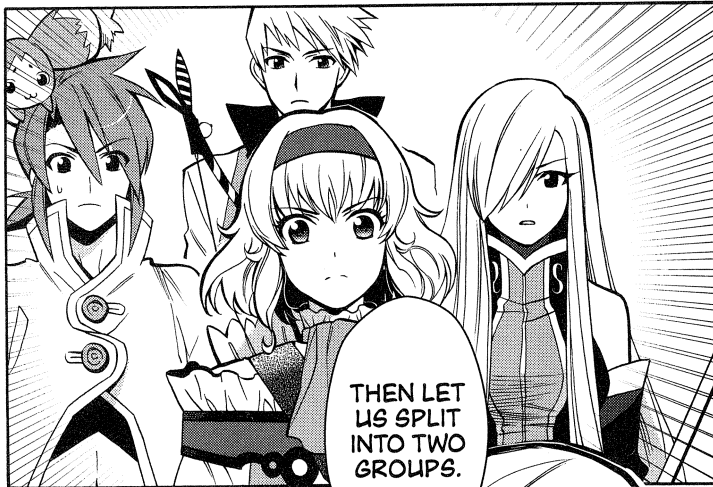
GWOO



I'M GOING
TO THE
KIMLASCAN
JOINT
CHIEF OF
STAFF AND
DIRECTLY
ORDER HIM
TO CALL A
CEASE-FIRE!



I CAN'T
GUARANTEE
THAT HE'LL
AGREE
THOUGH.



THEN LET
US SPLIT
INTO TWO
GROUPS.



I WILL GO TO
MALKUTH
EMPEROR
PEONY AND
REQUEST A
CEASE-FIRE
OF HIM AS
WELL.



PRINCESS
NATALIA,
YOU'RE
ALIVE...!!

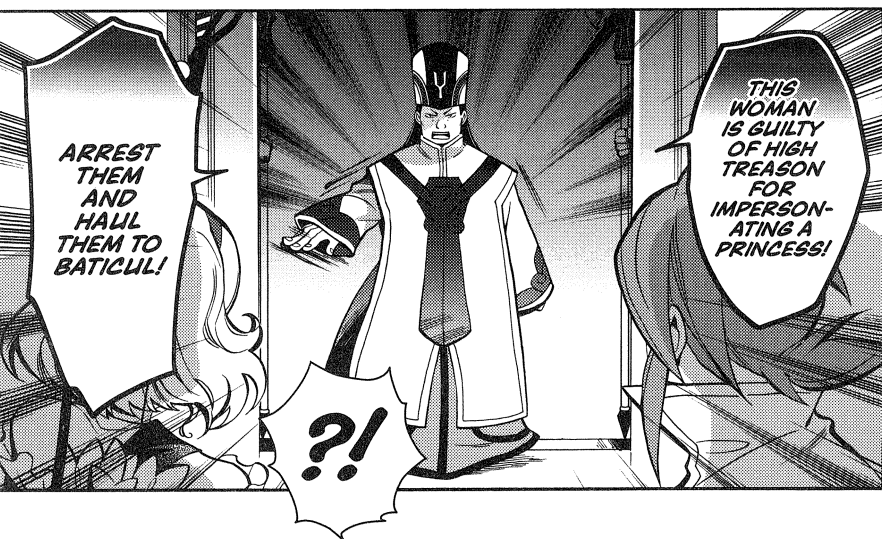
YES,
I'M
ALIVE,
JUST
AS
YOU
SEE
ME!

THIS WAR IS
THE RESULT OF
A MISUNDER-
STANDING
BY BOTH
COUNTRIES...
THEREFORE
YOU MUST
CEASE
HOSTILITIES!!



A JEST
FROM
THE
FRAUD!!

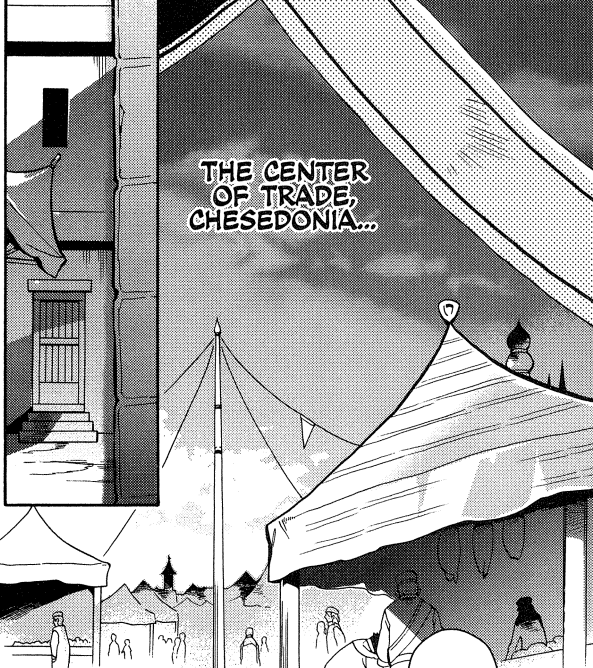
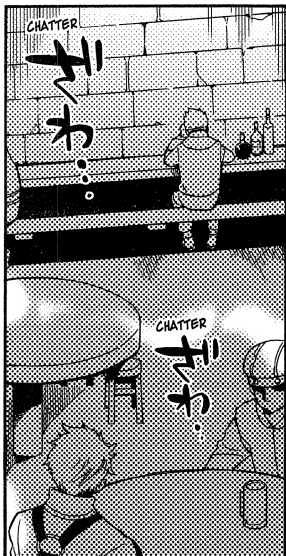
MWA AAH



ARREST
THEM
AND
HAUL
THEM TO
BATICUL!

THIS
WOMAN
IS GUILTY
OF HIGH
TREASON
FOR
IMPERSON-
ATING A
PRINCESS!

?!





HEY,
DID YOU
HEAR?

THEY
CAPTURED
THE
KIMLASCAN
PRINCESS,
NATALIA,
AND
DRAGGED
HER AWAY.

MALKUTH
DID?

NO... THE
TRUTH
SEEMS TO
BE THAT
SHE WAS AN
IMPOSTER
AND FOOLED
THE KING
HIMSELF.

SO THE
KIMLASCAN
SOLDIERS
BUNDLED
HER WHOLE
GROUP OVER
TO BATICUL.

*My place
in Baticul
was
stolen...*

*...and
now,
again
I...*

*The only thing
I had was my
body itself.*

*I am
left with
nothing.*





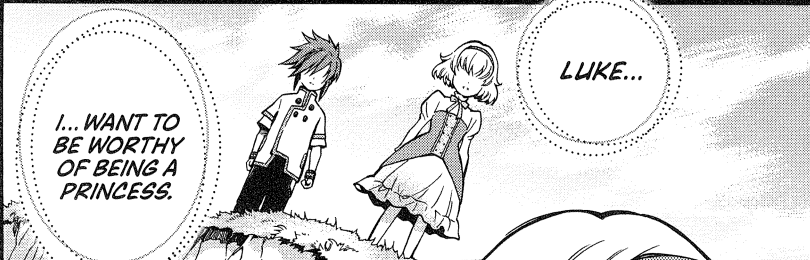
IT'S
JUST
WEIRD.



...AND
THE
LATE
QUEEN
HAD
BLACK
HAIR...

BUT
THE
KING
HAS
RED
HAIR...

PRINCESS
NATALIA IS
BLONDE?



I... WANT TO
BE WORTHY
OF BEING A
PRINCESS.

LUKE...



I WANT TO
BUILD A
COUNTRY THAT
WILL BRING
SMILES TO ITS
PEOPLE!

VRRRRM



フッ
HA
HA

...SO WHAT
DO YOU
WANT TO
RESCUE
PRINCESS
NATALIA
FOR?

YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE ANY
CONNEC-
TION TO
HER...

I'VE GOT
NOTHING
I NEED
TO
EXPLAIN
TO YOU!

JUST
SHUT
UP AND
FOLLOW
ORDERS!

AS LONG
AS WE GET
THAT RAISE
IN PAY, WE'LL
HELP WITH
ANYTHING.

YES,
SIRREE!

Natalia!

FOR HIM
TO RUSH
OFF LIKE
THAT...
IT AIN'T
LIKE
THE
BOSS.

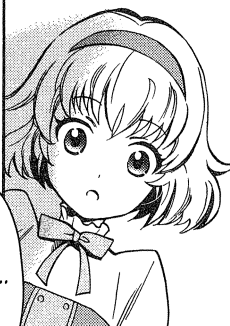


***She is
what
makes
a proper
princess of
Kimlasca!!***

*Nobody
loves her
country
more
than she
does!*



*Nobody
does more
for her
country...
That is
supposed
to be a
fraud?!*

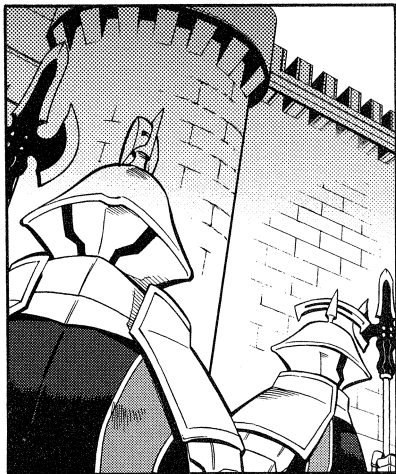
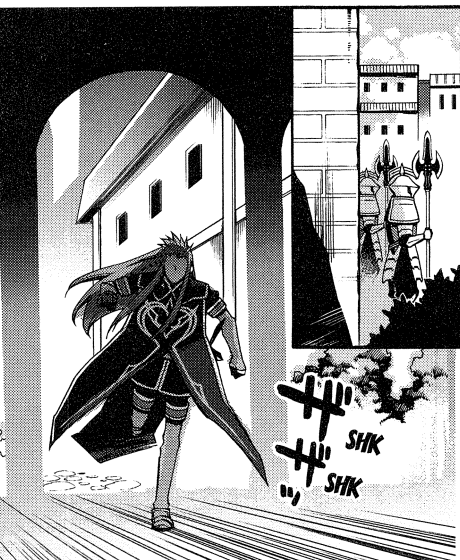
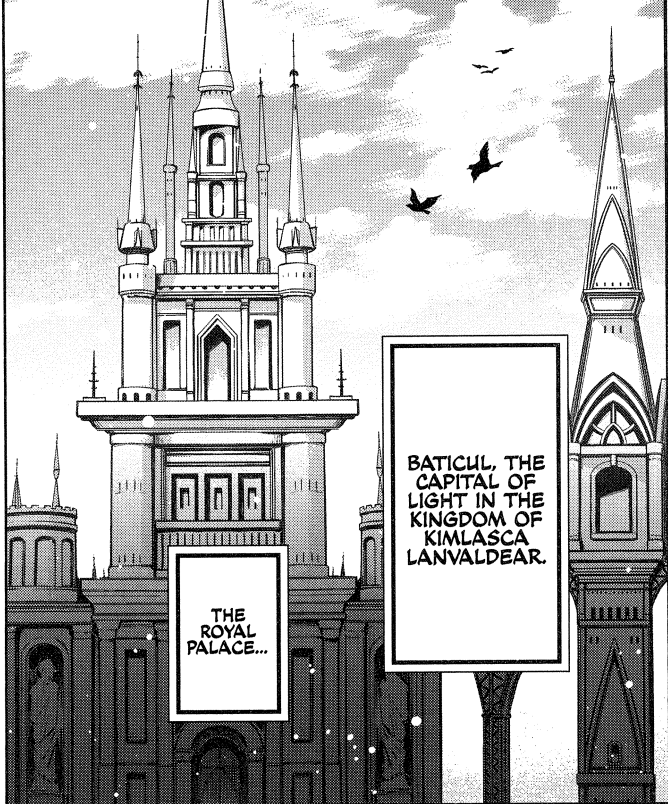
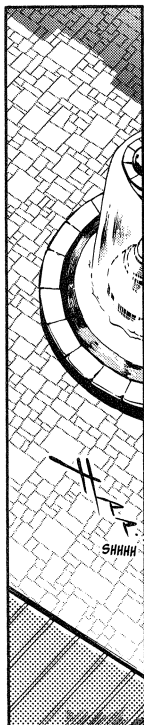


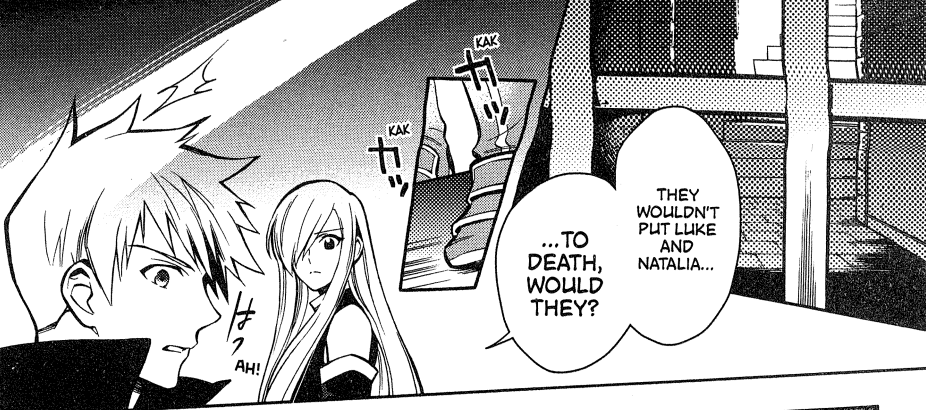
SOMEDAY...

WHEN
WE'RE
ALL
GROWN
UP...



*How
she
was
born
has
nothing
to do
with it!*





...TO
DEATH,
WOULD
THEY?

THEY
WOULDN'T
PUT LUKE
AND
NATALIA...



GRAND
MAESTRO
MOHS
TOOK
THEM
AWAY!

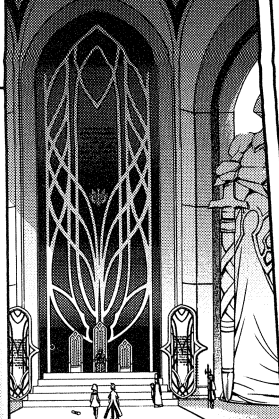
AND THE
OTHERS?

THE
COLONEL'S
GROUP WENT
TO MALKUTH
TO TRY TO
STOP THE
WAR.

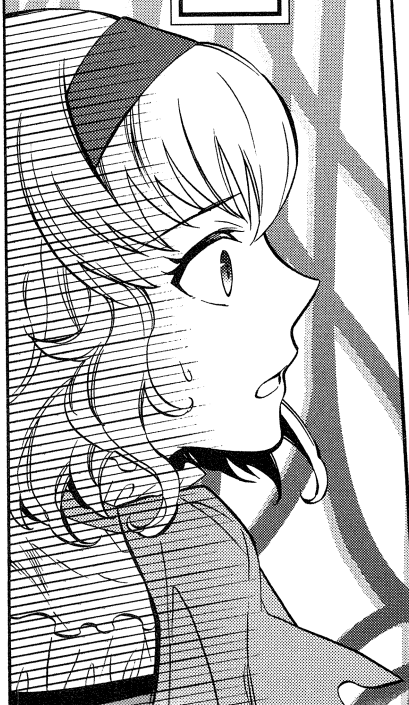
ASCH
?!

WHERE IS
NATALIA
?!

KAA
CHANK



ROYAL
PALACE
AUDIENCE
CHAMBER
...

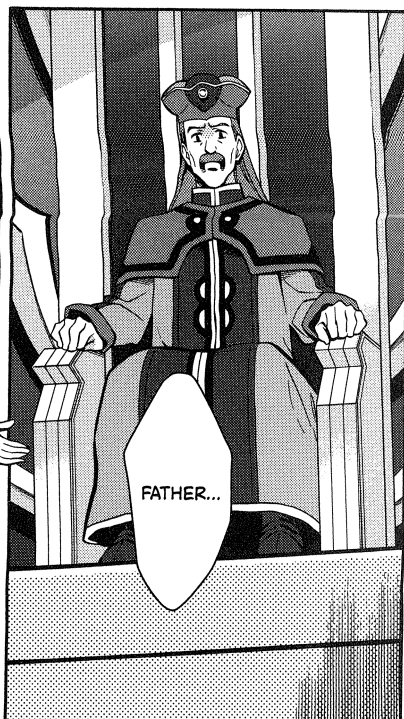


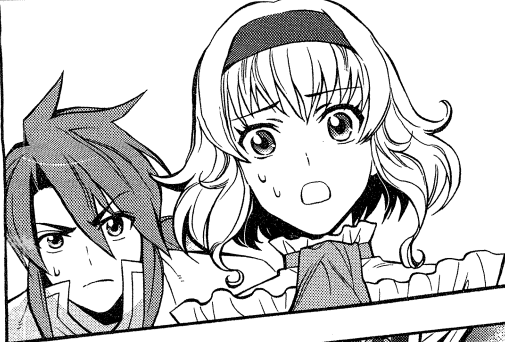
ASCH,
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING IN
BATICUL
...?

GET
OUT OF
THERE!
NOW!



NATALIA...
I'D
BETTER
BE IN
TIME!





WAAAAH
わあああ...



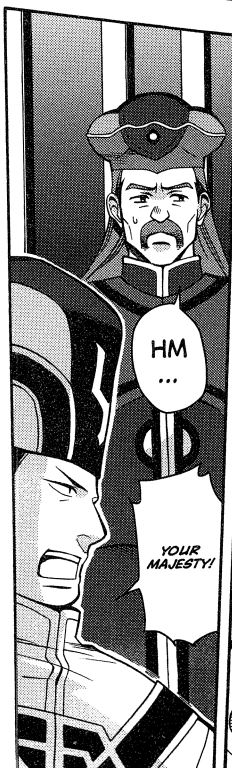
EVEN IF
IT WERE
TRUE...

UNCLE!

...INFANT
BONES
HAVE BEEN
DUG UP
CONFIRMING
THIS
PERSON'S
TESTIMONY.

HOW-
EVER
...

NATALIA...
WE DIDN'T
WISH TO
BELIEVE IT
EITHER.



HM
...

YOUR
MAJESTY!



YOU RAISED
NATALIA
AS IF SHE
WERE YOUR
VERY OWN
DAUGHTER!!



AND HE'S THE
RINGLEADER
WHO
CAUSED THE
DESTRUCTION
OF
AKZERIUH.

THESE
PEOPLE...

...ARE
TRAITORS
DEFRAUDING
THE NAME
OF THE TRUE
KIMLASCAN
PRINCESS!



..... WITH
THE
DEATH OF
THESE
TWO...

...WE
FORMALLY
DECLARE
WAR ON THE
MALKUTH
EMPIRE.

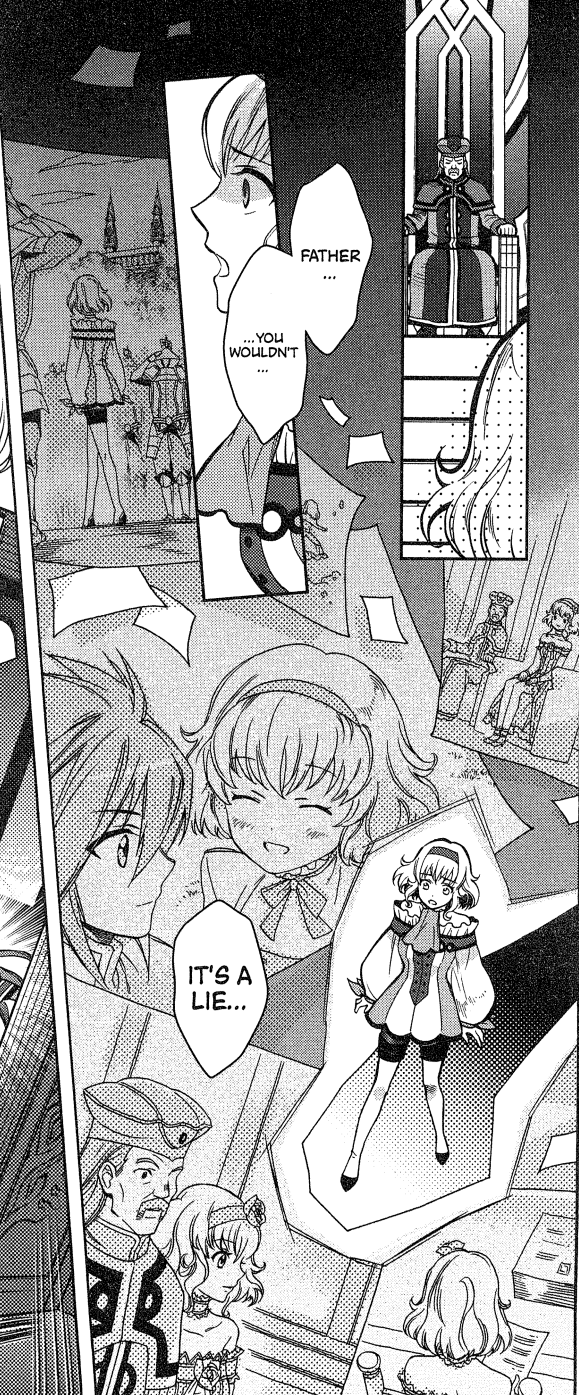


**EXECUTE
THESE
PRISONERS!**

**LARGO!
DIST!**

DOOM!!

!!



BAMM



**YOU
TWO
GET
OUT
OF
HERE!
NOW!**

**I'LL
STAY
HERE
AND
STOP
THESE
TWO!**

LU...
ASCH...



SHUT
UP, AND
...

...GET
OUT OF
HERE!

LUKE!
NATALIA!
LET'S
GO!

ASCH!
COME
WITH
US!

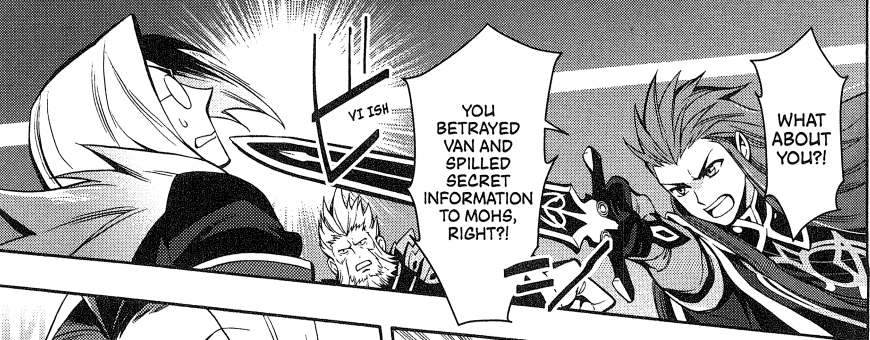
.....
COME
OUT OF
THIS
ALIVE
...!



**GRR! YOU
TRAITOR!**

**WHAT
IS THE
MEANING
OF THIS,
ASCH?!**

**YOU,
SHUT
UP!**



VI ISH

YOU BETRAYED VAN AND SPILLED SECRET INFORMATION TO MOHS, RIGHT?!

WHAT ABOUT YOU?!



THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT ARE HIGHER PRIORITY THAN LOYALTY TO VAN.

HUMPH

MY ENDS JUSTIFY ANY ACTIONS I TAKE.



DIST, YOU BASTARD!

ONE OF THE SIX GOD GENERALS, AND YOU WOULD YET BETRAY THE GENERAL?!



GLARE

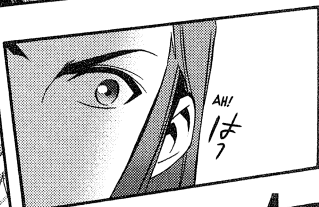
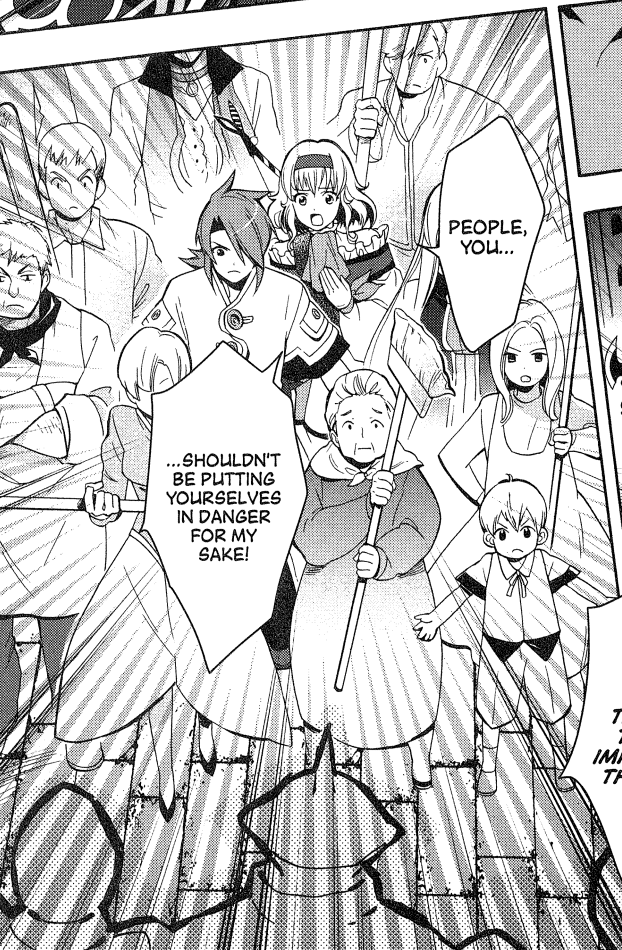
WHAT?!

The only reason they're together is Van put them together.

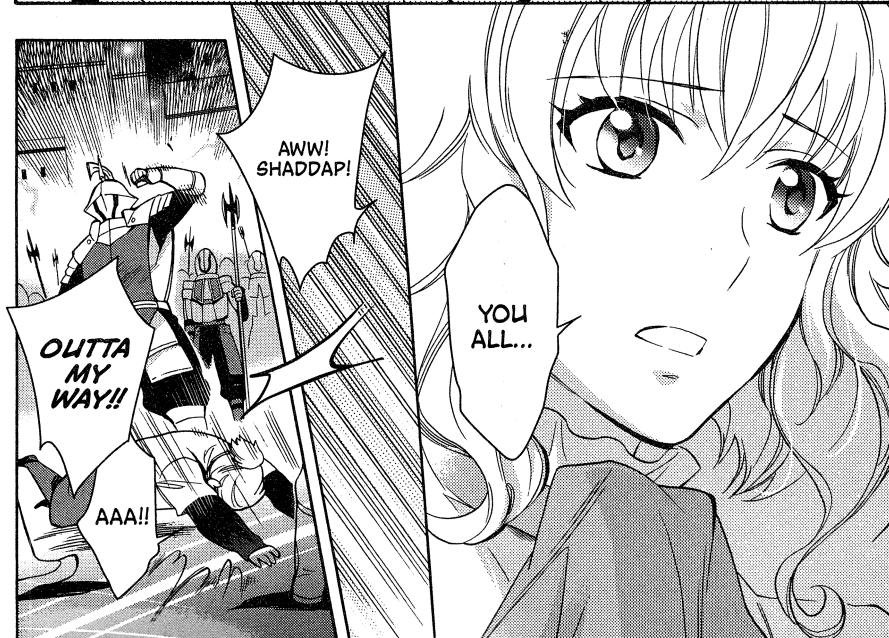
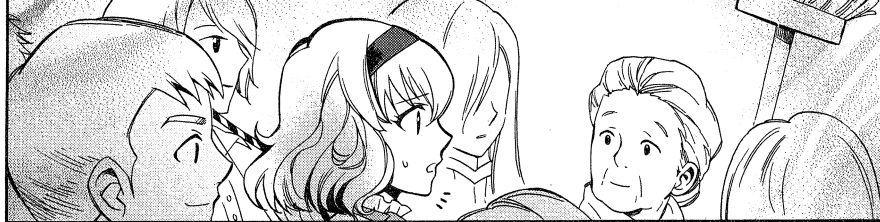
They have no bonds other than that!

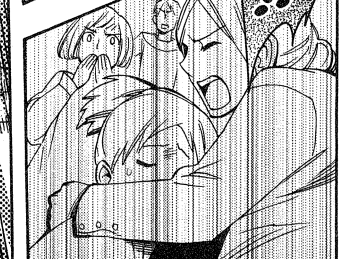
KH... THE TRAITORS GOT AWAY...!





THESE ARE
TRAITORS
TO THE CROWN
IMPERSONATING
THE PRINCESS!







YOUR
JOB IS TO
PROTECT
THE PEOPLE
OF THE CITY!

**LISTEN,
TRASH!!**



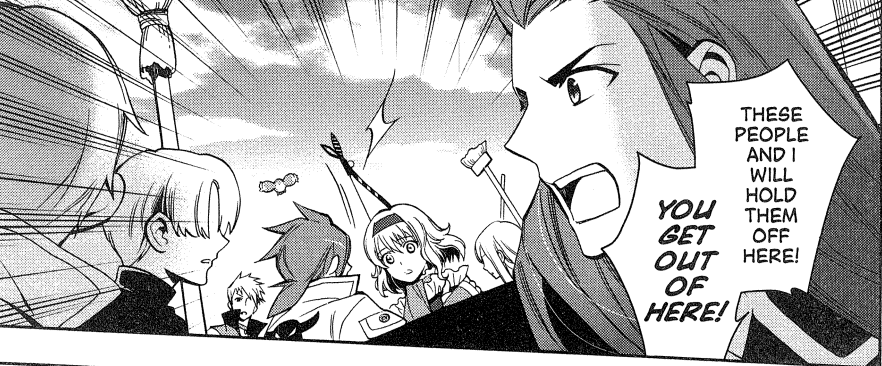
A...
SCH
...

YOU LOVE
YOUR
PEOPLE AND
THEY LOVE
YOU BACK...

NATALIA...



**YOU HAVE
KEPT
YOUR
PROMISE!**



THESE
PEOPLE
AND I
WILL
HOLD
THEM
OFF
HERE!

**YOU
GET
OUT
OF
HERE!**



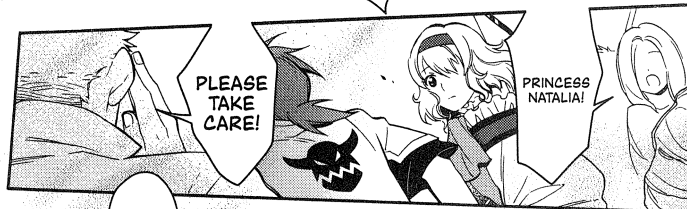
FROM
YOU
EITHER!

==
//
HEH



REPLICA!

NO MORE
BUNGLES,
GOT IT?!



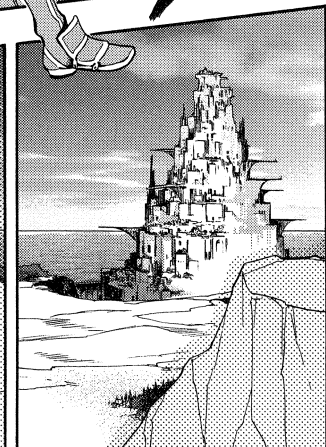
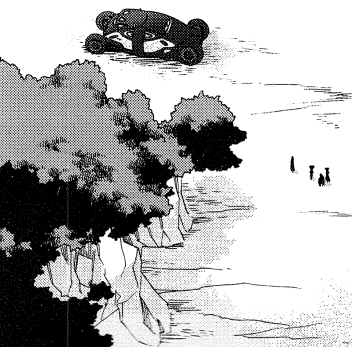
PLEASE
TAKE
CARE!

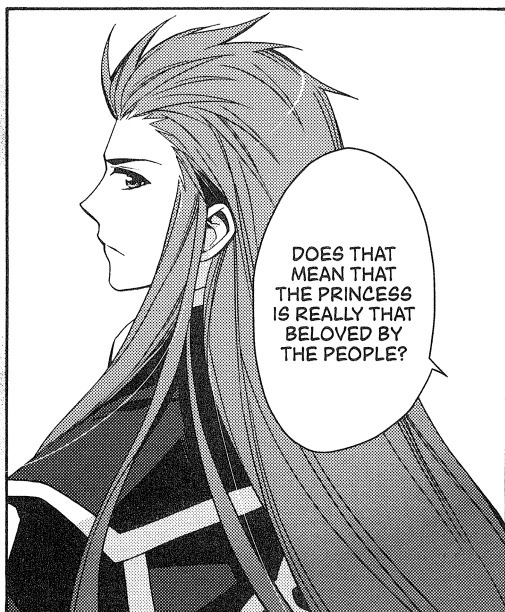
PRINCESS
NATALIA!



THANK
YOU...

THANK
YOU!



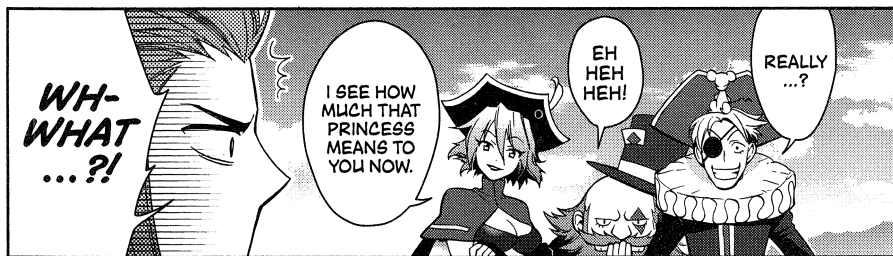




THAT IS
EXACTLY
THE
KIND OF
PRINCESS
THAT THE
PEOPLE
WERE
MEANT TO
FOLLOW.

SHE WENT
OUT AND
TOUCHED
THE
PEOPLE...
HEARD THEIR
VOICES
FIRSTHAND.

THEN SHE
CONSIDERED
CAREFULLY
WHAT SHE
COULD DO
TO HELP.

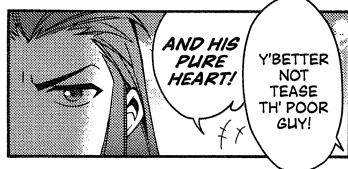


WH-
WHAT
...?!

I SEE HOW
MUCH THAT
PRINCESS
MEANS TO
YOU NOW.

EH
HEH
HEH!

REALLY
...?



AND HIS
PURE
HEART!

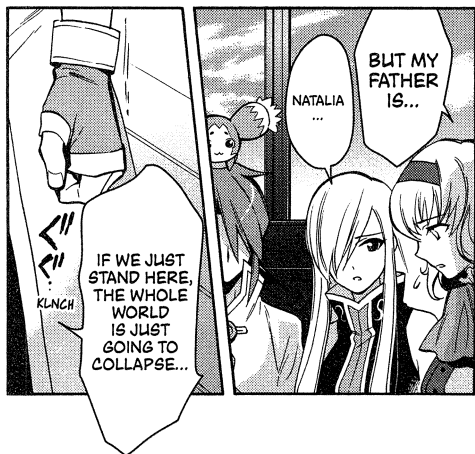
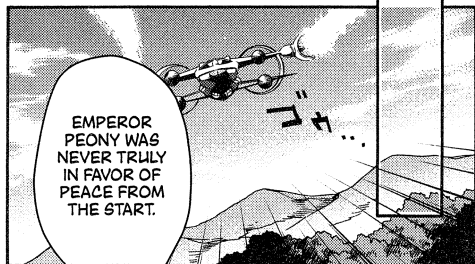
Y'BETTER
NOT
TEASE
TH' POOR
GUY!



AH HA
HA! HE'S
SO CUTE
WHEN HE
BLUSHES!

STOP
WASTING
TIME!
WE'RE
LEAVING!





...THEN
PERHAPS IT
IS BEST IF
WE THOUGHT
OF A WAY TO
SEND THE
OUTER LANDS
THEMSELVES
SAFELY DOWN
TO QLIPHOTH.

IF WE
CANNOT
KEEP
THE LAND
ALOFT...

KACHIK

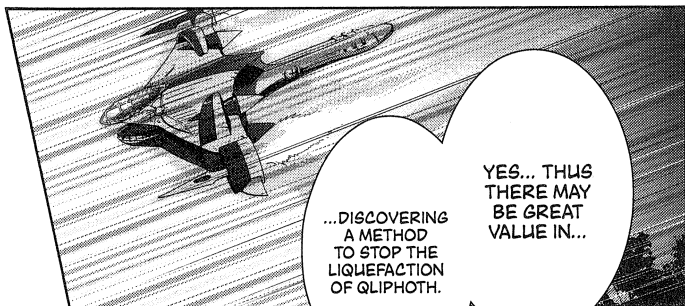
THAT IS
TRUE.

IF WE
GOT THE
LANDS
SAFELY
DOWN
ONLY TO
SINK IN
THE SEA...

BUT
QLIPHOTH
IS A SEA
OF MUD...

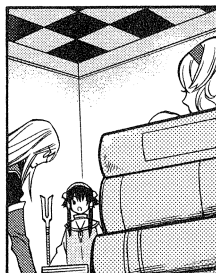
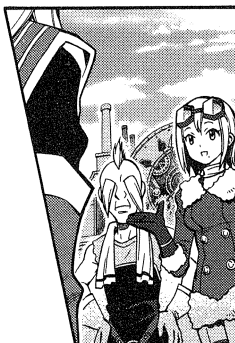
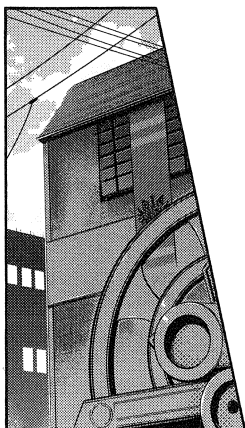
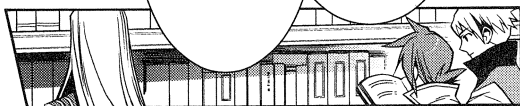
NOW!

ISN'T
THERE
ANYTHING
THAT WE
CAN DO
RIGHT
NOW?!



...DISCOVERING
A METHOD
TO STOP THE
LIQUEFACTION
OF QLIPHOTH.

YES... THUS
THERE MAY
BE GREAT
VALUE IN...





**YOU'RE
NOT
GETTING
AWAY!
ANSWER
ME!**

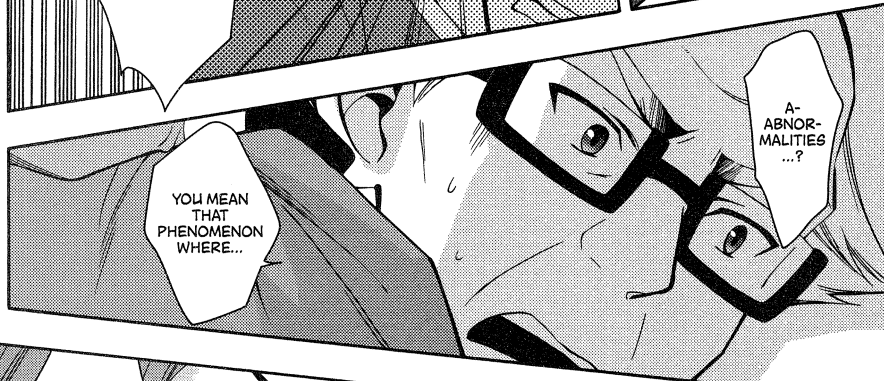
**YOU
MADE
MY
REPLICA,
SO YOU
WOULD
KNOW!**

**WHAT ARE THE
ABNORMALITIES
THAT OCCUR
TO A PERFECT
ISO-FON?**

**SPINOZA
!!**

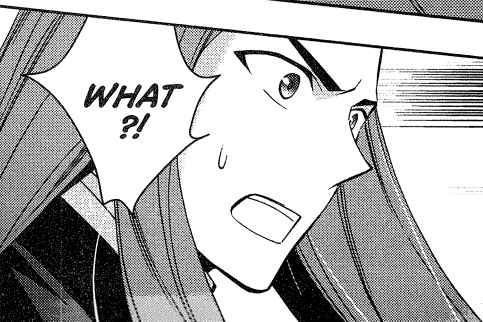
**LI
TWITCH**

**IT'S
YOU
...!**



**YOU MEAN
THAT
PHENOMENON
WHERE...**

**A-
ABNOR-
MALITIES
...?**



**WHAT
?!**

**...AND
RETURN
TO THE
REPLICA
...?**

**...THE
FONONS
OF THE
ORIGINAL
EXPLODE,
DISSIPATE...**



**YOU MEAN
THEY GO
TO MY
REPLICA'S
BODY...?!**



TSK!?

**THE
BASTARD
IS QUICK
ON HIS
FEET!**



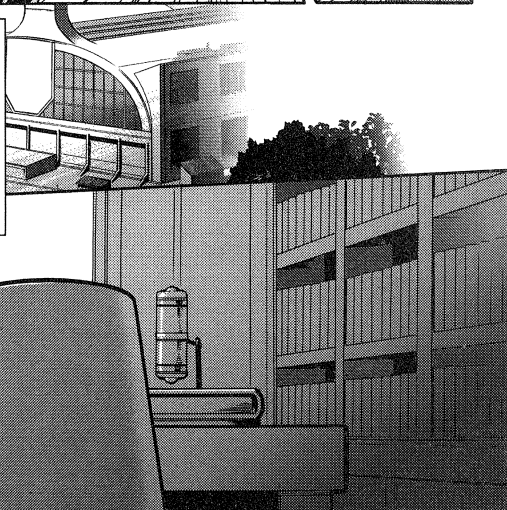
**DAMMIT!
WAIT
RIGHT
THERE!**



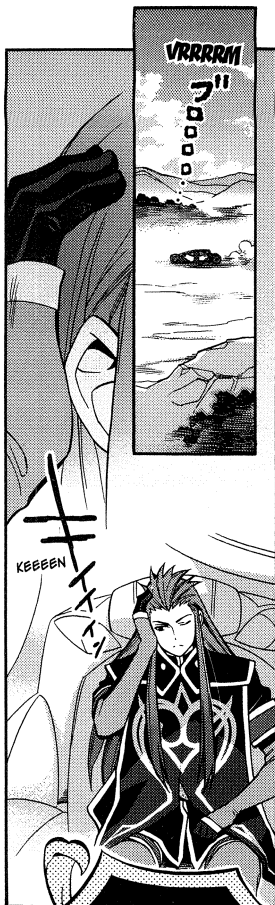
WHOOOSH!

**But he
isn't
here
now**

**Belkend, the
town where
Van did
his replica
research.**



**IS HE OUT
SOMEWHERE
TRYING TO
DESTROY
ANOTHER
SEPHIROTH
TREE...?!**



**JUST
WHAT IS
THAT MAN
THINKING
?!**

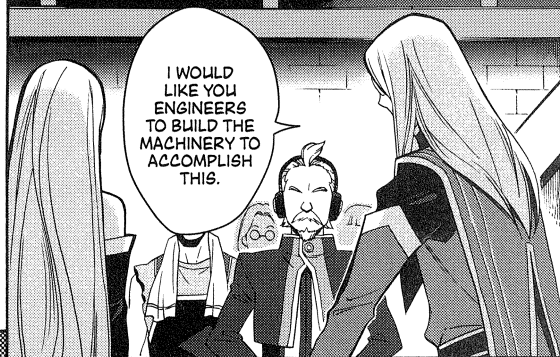


**I
BELIEVED
IN HIS
IDEALS!**



*Causing
the land
to crumble
and fall...
Killing
countless
people...
How does
that make
a world of
peace...?!*

GRUNCH

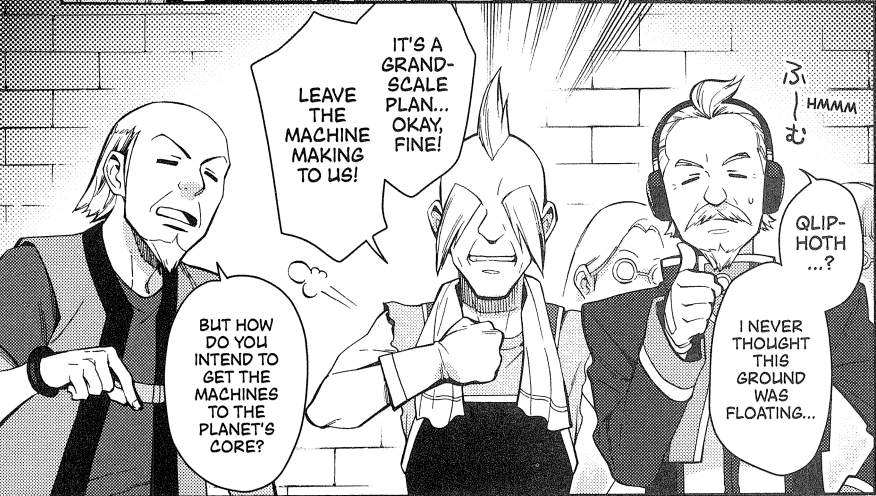


I WOULD LIKE YOU ENGINEERS TO BUILD THE MACHINERY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.



...THEN YOU STOP THE LIQUEFACTION OF THE LANDMASS IN QLIPHOTH.

FIRST... YOU STOP THE SHAKING OF THE PLANET'S CORE...



LEAVE THE MACHINE MAKING TO US!

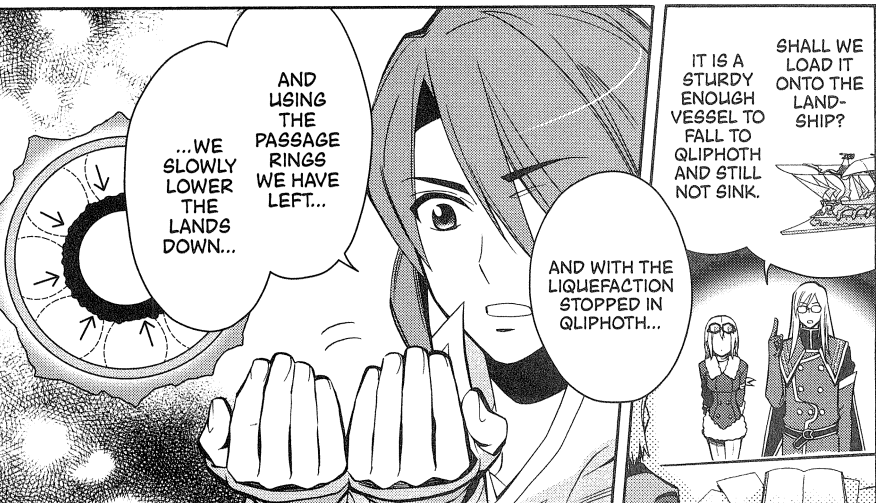
IT'S A GRAND-SCALE PLAN... OKAY, FINE!

BUT HOW DO YOU INTEND TO GET THE MACHINES TO THE PLANET'S CORE?

ふー HMMM むー

QLIPHOTH ...?

I NEVER THOUGHT THIS GROUND WAS FLOATING...



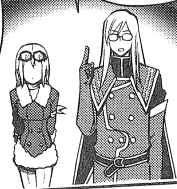
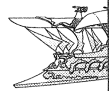
...WE SLOWLY LOWER THE LANDS DOWN...

AND USING THE PASSAGE RINGS WE HAVE LEFT...

AND WITH THE LIQUEFACTION STOPPED IN QLIPHOTH...

IT IS A STURDY ENOUGH VESSEL TO FALL TO QLIPHOTH AND STILL NOT SINK.

SHALL WE LOAD IT ONTO THE LANDSHIP?





RIGHT!

WE'LL
LET'S
GET THE
PREPARA-
TIONS
STARTED!



WE'LL
NEVER
KNOW
UNTIL WE
TRY IT IN
REALITY.

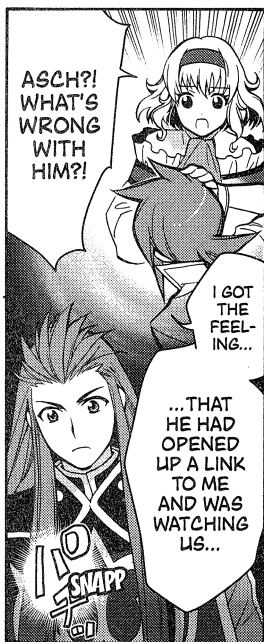
IN
THEORY,
YES.

トニ
TUMP
TUMP

DOES
THIS
MEAN WE
CAN SAVE
EVERY-
BODY'S
LIVES?!

THAT'S THE
COLONEL
FOR YOU!

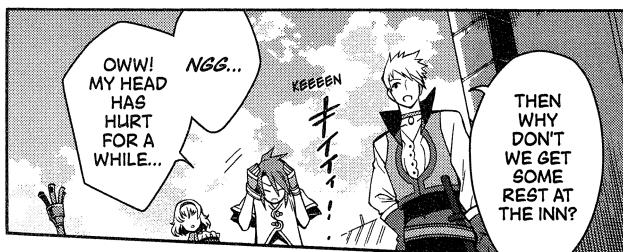
A
PERFECT
PLAN!



ASCH?!
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
HIM?!

I GOT
THE
FEEL-
ING...

...THAT
HE HAD
OPENED
UP A LINK
TO ME
AND WAS
WATCHING
US...



OWW!
MY HEAD
HAS
HURT FOR
A WHILE...

NGG...

KEEEN

キィィィ!

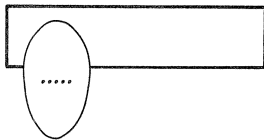
THEN
WHY
DON'T
WE GET
SOME
REST AT
THE INN?



THIS...
COULD
THIS BE
ASCH?!

!!

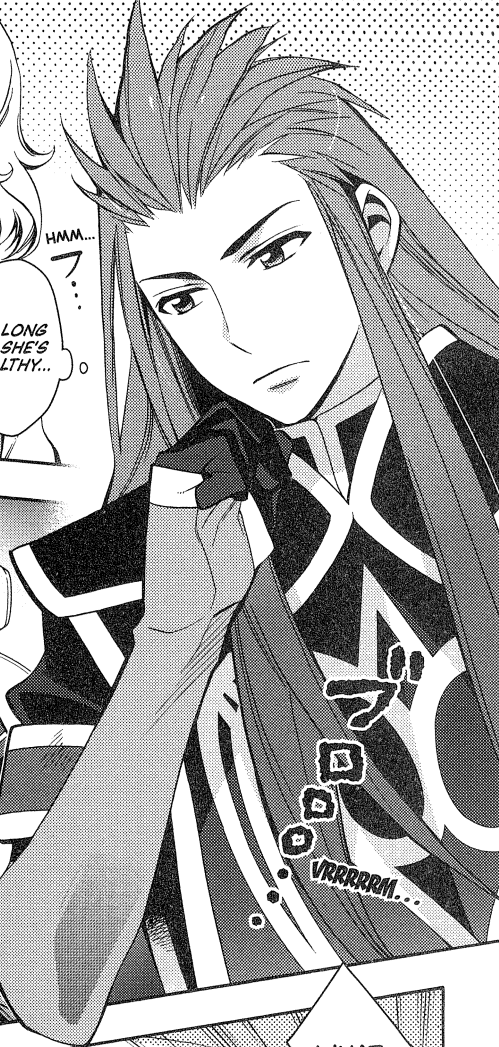
1 / x AH!



.....



IF YOU'RE THAT CONCERNED WITH THE PRINCESS, THEN YOU SHOULD TALK WITH HER.



NEVER GO AROUND UNDERESTIMATIN' OUR INFORMATION GATHERIN', BOSS!



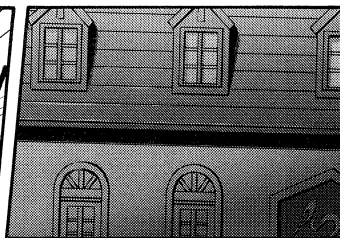
EH HEH HEH
ウシ

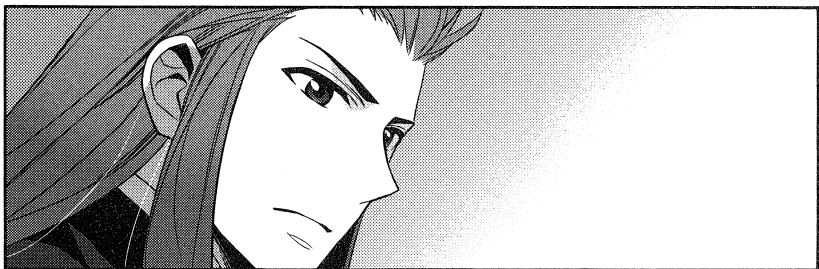
WHAT
...?!

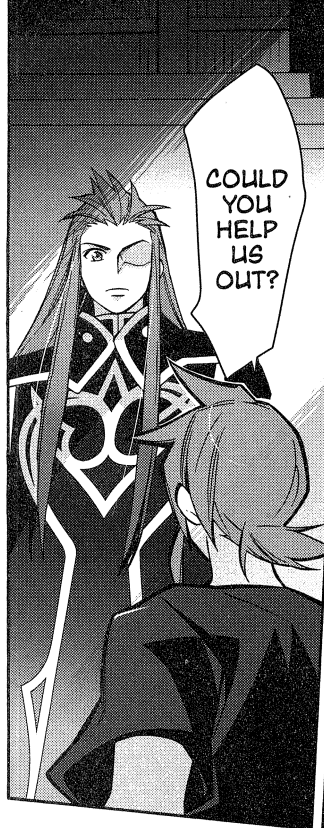
ACTUALLY, WE'RE ALREADY HEADED TO SHERIDAN.



CITY OF
CRAFTSMEN,
SHERIDAN...



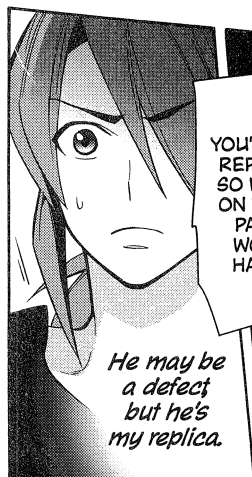




COULD
YOU
HELP
US
OUT?



HOW
ABOUT
YOU
COME
WITH
US?



*He may be
a defect
but he's
my replica.*

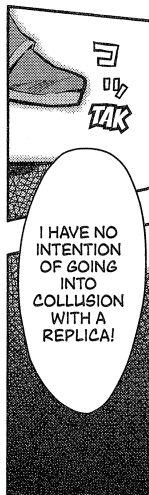


YOU'RE MY
REPLICA,
SO WORK
ON YOUR
PART!
WORK
HARD!

WHA
--?!

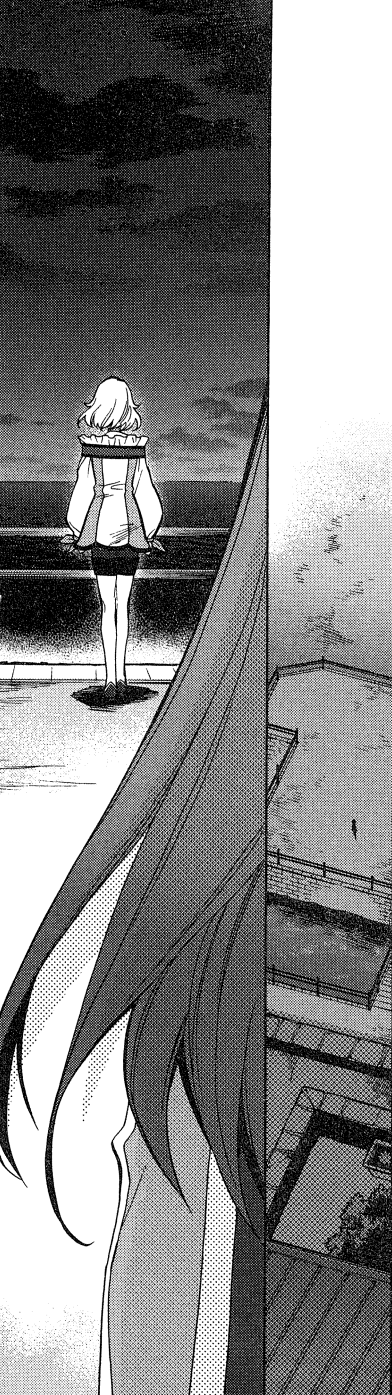
I HAVE
MY OWN
WAY OF
DOING
THINGS!

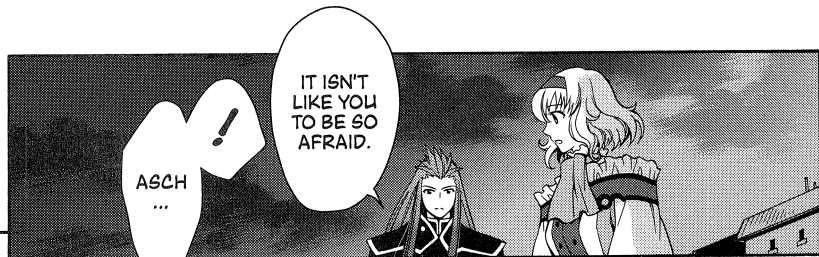
I HEAR
WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING.
DROP
IT!



3
07
TAK

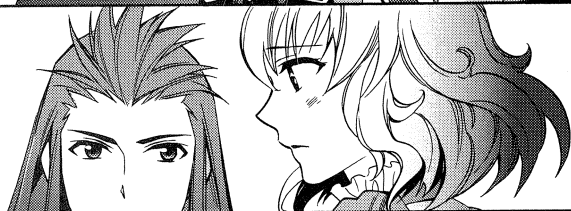
I HAVE NO
INTENTION
OF GOING
INTO
COLLUSION
WITH A
REPLICA!





ASCH
...

IT ISN'T
LIKE YOU
TO BE SO
AFRAID.



EVEN WHEN
YOU HAVE A
NATION OF
KIMLASCANS
WHO ARE ALL
BEHIND YOU?



BUT
I...

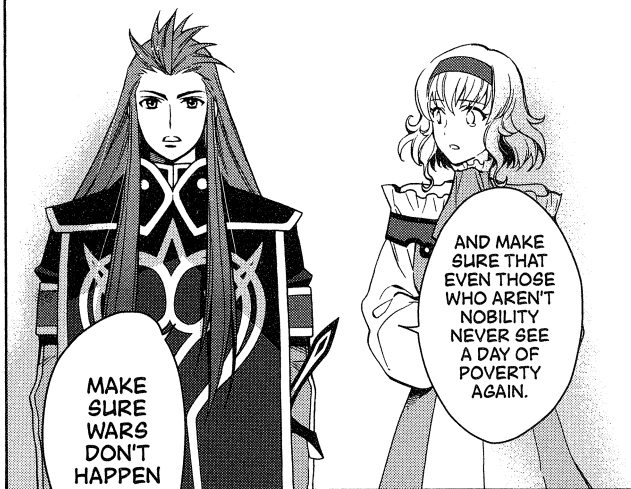
I KNOW
THAT I
DO...!



EVEN
I...

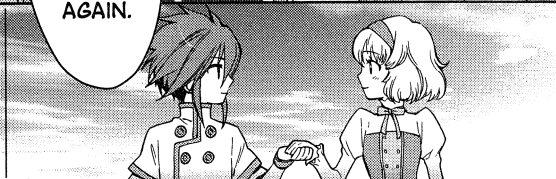
EVEN
I HAVE
TIMES
WHEN I'M
AFRAID.





MAKE
SURE
WARS
DON'T
HAPPEN
AGAIN.

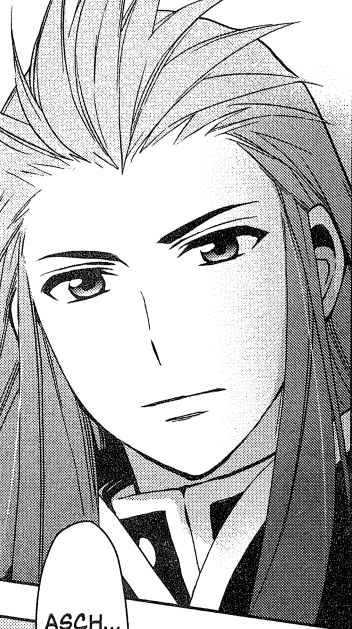
AND MAKE
SURE THAT
EVEN THOSE
WHO AREN'T
NOBILITY
NEVER SEE
A DAY OF
POVERTY
AGAIN.



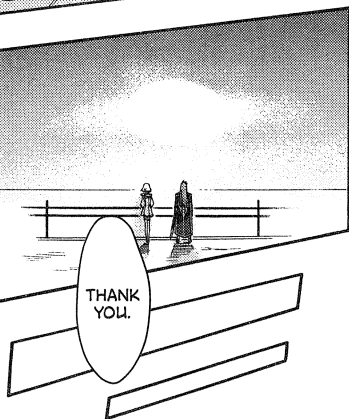
YOU DIDN'T
SAY THAT
SIMPLY
BECAUSE
YOU ARE A
PRINCESS.



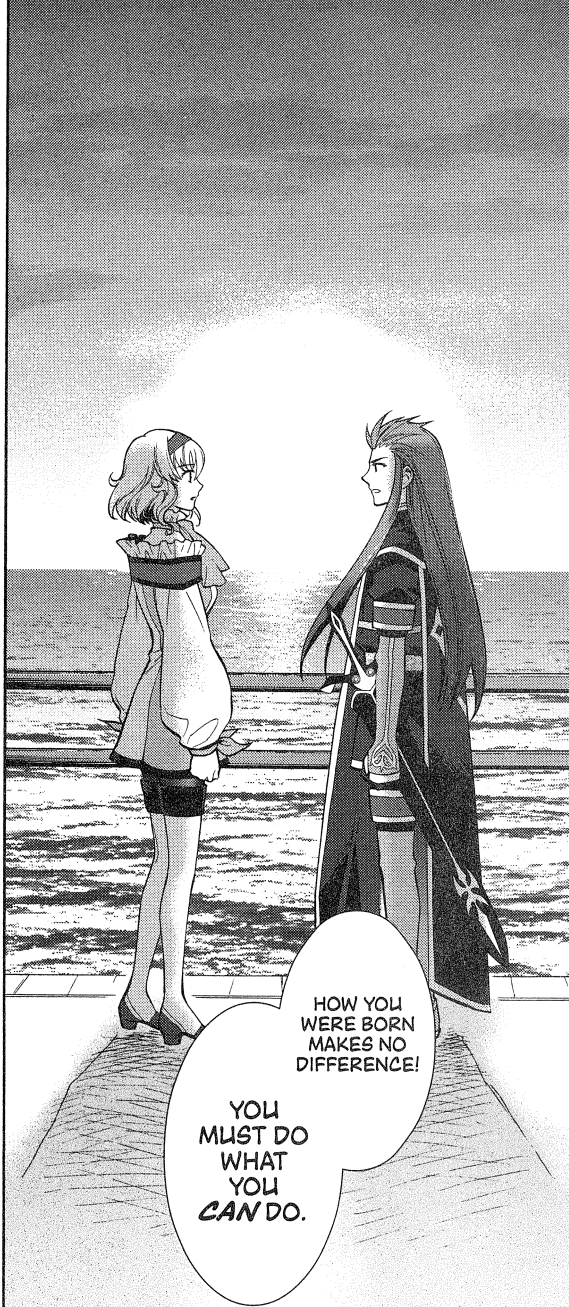
AND
CHANGE
THIS
COUNTRY
THAT WE
WILL LIVE
IN UNTIL
WE DIE...



ASCH...



THANK
YOU.

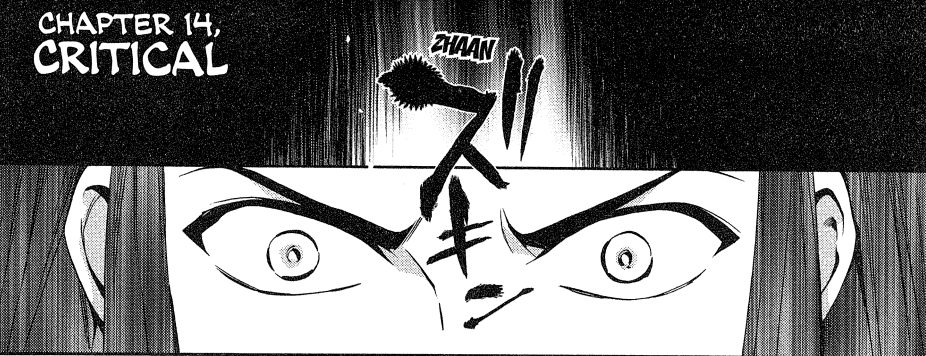


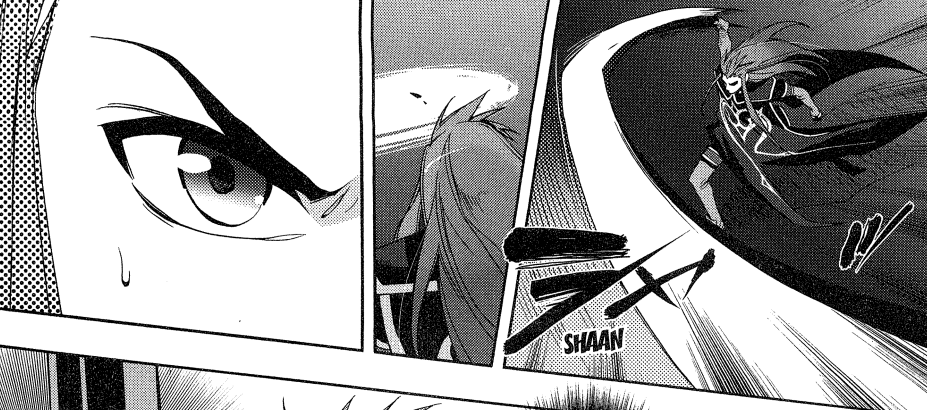
HOW YOU
WERE BORN
MAKES NO
DIFFERENCE!

YOU
MUST DO
WHAT
YOU
CAN DO.



CHAPTER 14,
CRITICAL





THE
ONE
WHO
WILL
STOP
VAN...

...WILL
BE ME!!



NO GREAT
DISASTERS
THAT HAVE
BEEN READ IN
THE SCORE,
SO THERE'S
NO NEED TO
WORRY.

THERE HAVE
BEEN A LOT
OF QUAKE'S
RECENTLY...

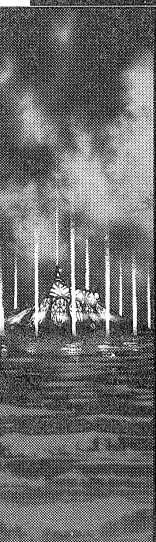


WE'RE
GOING TO
NEED
ANOTHER
SCORE
READING
SOON!

WE'RE
HAVING
STEW
TONIGHT.
JUST AS
WRITTEN IN
THE SCORE.

A world
bound
by the
Score.

The
planet
Auldrant.





EMPEROR PEONY THE NINTH
EMPEROR OF THE MALKUTH EMPIRE.

MONARCH OF THE KINGDOM OF KIMLASCA LANVALDEAR.
KING INGOBERT THE SIXTH.



IF WE CAN LOWER THE OTHER LANDS SAFELY TO GLIPHOTH...

RIGHT! NOW IT'S UP TO US TO STOP THE QUAKE IN THE PLANET'S CORE...

...THIS MEANS THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE SIGNED ON TO THE PLAN TO LOWER THE OUTER LANDS!

LUKE ...



AND...

...WE HAVE TO STOP MASTER VAN!

ZLATS



**LOOK
WELL!**

**THIS IS
THE END
ONE CAN
EXPECT
WHEN
ONE
BECOMES
MY
ENEMY!**



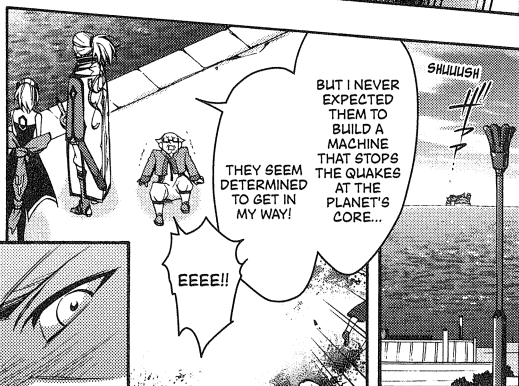
**URRN
...**



**GENERAL,
I MUST
APOLOGIZE!**

**THE
ENGINEERS
PUT UP A
FEROCIOUS
FIGHT...**

**YOU
WEREN'T
IN TIME!
THAT WAS
A FAILURE,
LEGRETTA!**



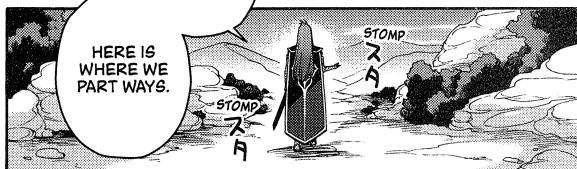
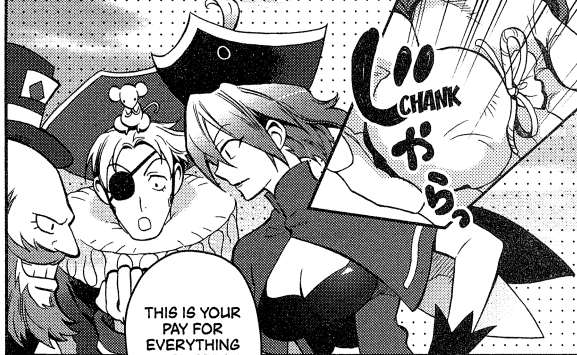
SHUULSH

**BUT I NEVER
EXPECTED
THEM TO
BUILD A
MACHINE
THAT STOPS
THE QUAKE
AT THE
PLANET'S
CORE...**

**THEY SEEM
DETERMINED
TO GET IN
MY WAY!**

EEEE!!

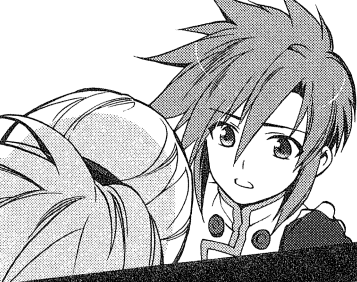




*Is this
all still a
part of his
scheme?*

*Van has taken
the Six God
Generals and
countless
troops and
vanished from
the Order and
from Belkend...
He's
abandoned
his position
and
reputation
to further
his plan...*



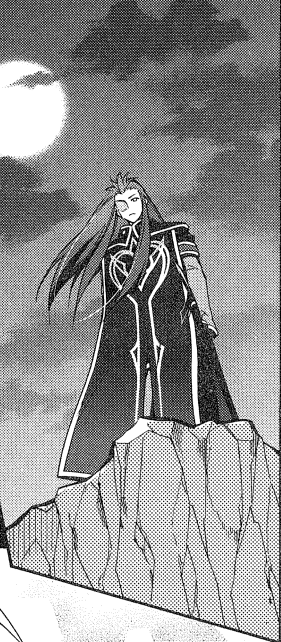


"ASCH,
I NEED
YOU!"

"THE
REPLICA?
HA HA!
THAT'S
NOTHING
MORE THAN
A DEFECTIVE
SUBSTITUTE
FOR YOU!"



"YOU
ARE A
SUPERIOR
DISCIPLE!"



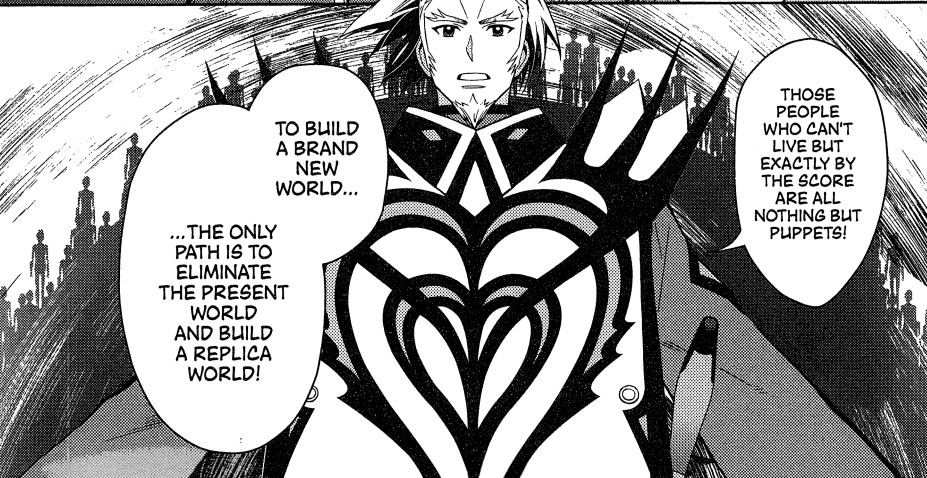
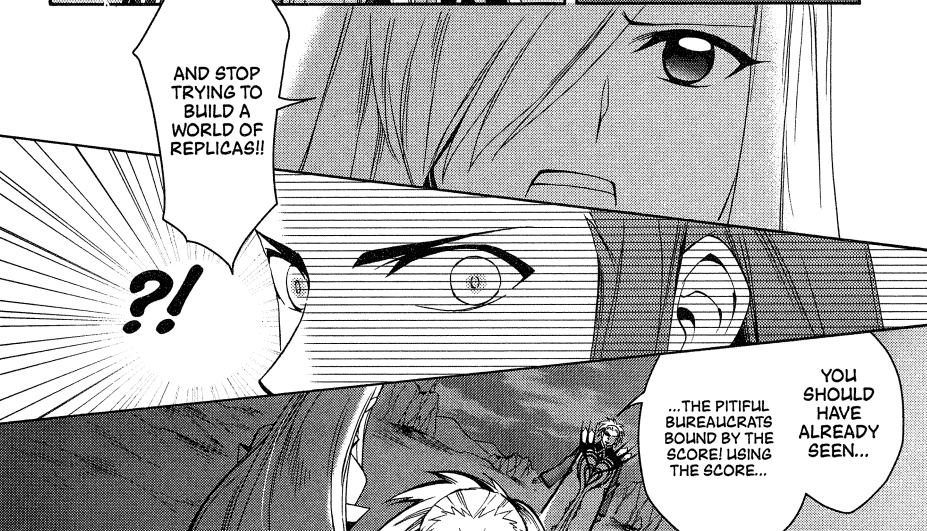
"YOU
ARE NO
LONGER
LUKE
FON
FABRE!"

"FROM
NOW ON,
YOUR
NAME
WILL BE
ASCH,
AND YOU
WILL LIVE
AS MY
RIGHT
HAND!"

I had lost
everything
else, until
the one
place I
belonged
was by
Van's side.

.....
But...







Hy
AAAA...
AA AH!!

GACHING

A
REPLICIA
WORLD,
YOU
SAY...?!

DON'T
GIVE ME
THAT
CRAP!!

ASCH!



THAT IS
THE ONE
WAY TO
RELEASE
US FROM
THE
SCORE!

GEE ESH

YOU
INTEND
TO KILL
ALL THE
HUMANS...
AND
DESTROY
ALL THE
LAND TO
EXCHANGE
IT FOR
REPLICAS
?!

WHAT
THE
HELL
KIND OF
"IDEAL
WORLD"
IS
THAT?!

KANK

KANK KANK

KANK KANK

KANK

AND THIS
RIDICULOUS
WORLD
CONTROLLED
BY IT...

THE SCORE
IS THE
PLANET'S
MEMORY...
IT CANNOT
BE OVER-
TURNED!

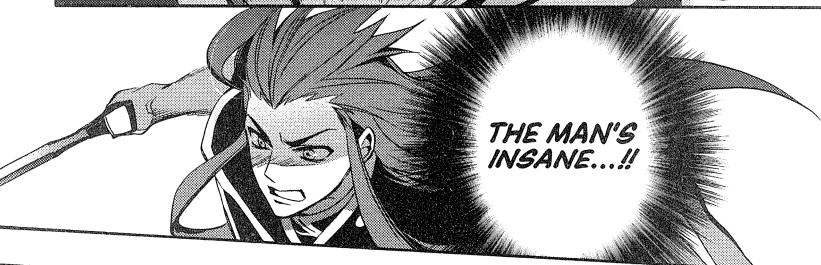
TO
CORRECT
THIS
FOOLISH
WORLD
THAT'S
BEEN
WARPED
FOR TWO
THOUSAND
YEARS...

...IT NEEDS
A POISON
OF THAT
MAGNITUDE!



ASCH?

DON'T YOU
THINK SO
TOO?



**THE MAN'S
INSANE...!!**



**RENDING
SABER...**

GWOO OO



**I'M
GOING
TO BUST
YOU TO
PIECES!**

WHOOSH



TOO LATE.



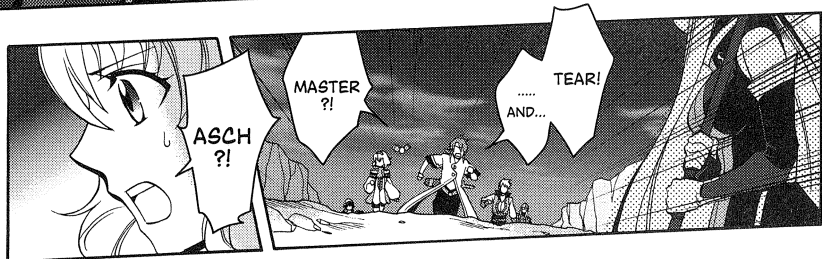
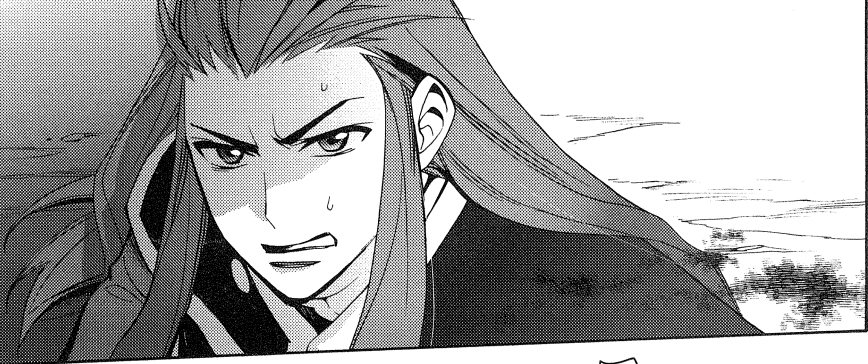
SKRRGCH

GAAHHH!!

LIN...
GHH...

..... WHY
DO YOU
OPPOSE
ME?

THIS IS A
WORLD
YOU HAD
ABANDONED,
WASN'T
IT?





YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
THINGS
THAT ARE
PRECIOUS...



YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
PEOPLE
YOU
WANT TO
PROTECT
TOO,
RIGHT?!



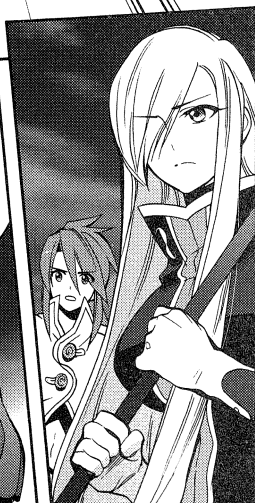
IF YOU
NEED
HYPER-
RESONANCE
SO MUCH
...

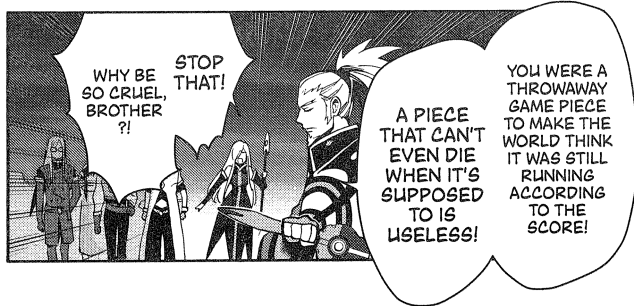
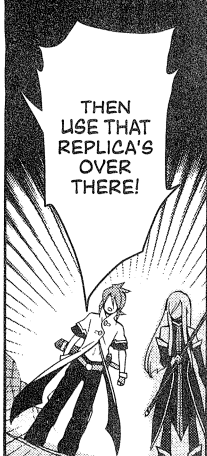
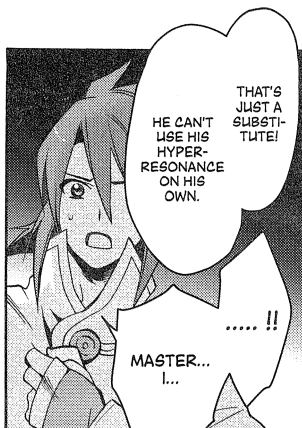
LET US
WORK
TOGETHER
TO CREATE A
NEW WORLD
ORDER!



WITHOUT
YOUR HYPER-
RESONANCE,
I CANNOT
SUCCESSFULLY
BRING MY
PLAN TO
COMPLETION!

CALM
DOWN,
ASCH.
I STILL
HAVE
NEED
OF
YOU!









YOU SINGLED HIM OUT FOR GOOD THINGS BACK THEN, RIGHT? SINCE HE WAS HERE, WE ASKED HIM TO COME BY.







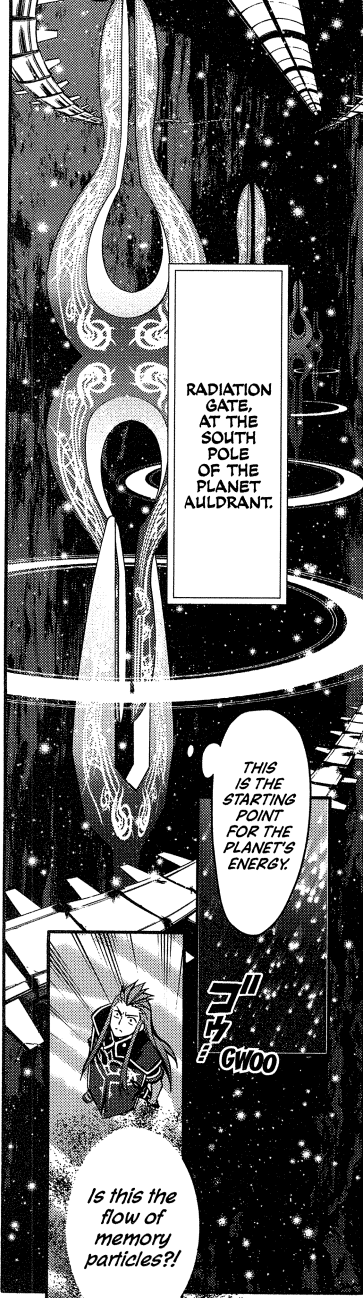
IF IT
WEREN'T FOR
THIS BODY,
I'D HAVE
GONE TO THE
ABSORPTION
GATE LONG
AGO...!!

I KNEW
IT!
YOU'RE
STILL
HURT...

GRATCH

ASCH...

IF YOU CAN'T
FINISH VAN
OFF, I'LL COME
IN AND KILL
HIM EVEN
IF I HAVE TO
CRAWL THERE!



RADIATION
GATE,
AT THE
SOUTH
POLE
OF THE
PLANET
AULDRANT.

THIS
IS THE
STARTING
POINT
FOR THE
PLANET'S
ENERGY.

ゴウ
ゴウ
ゴウ
GOOO

Is this the
flow of
memory
particles?!

NOT
"STOP
HIM"...

..... GOT IT.
I'LL MAKE
CERTAIN
TO STOP
THE
MASTER.

"TAKE
HIM
DOWN"
!!

....
OKAY.

TSK
...!!

ABSORPTION
GATE AT
THE NORTH
POLE OF
THE PLANET
AULDRANT.

GAH...

VAN
...!!

WOBBLE

It will start
activity at the
planet's core
again and
destroy the
machines!
That would
pull the lands
in and cause
landslides
again!

Memory
particles
are flowing
backwards
from the
Absorption
Gate at the
other pole!

But this
won't go
as you
planned!!

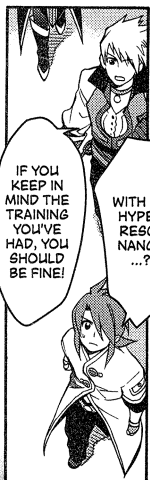


LUKE,
USE YOUR
HYPER-
RESONANCE!
I'LL GIVE
THE
ORDER
FROM
HERE!

WE
HAVEN'T
THE
TIME
LEFT.

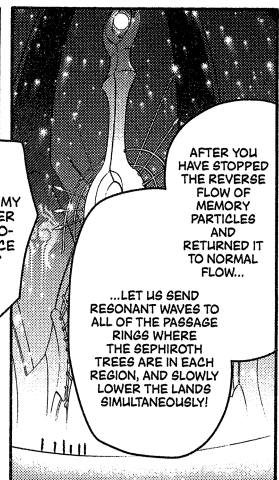
MASTER
...

...VAN...



IF YOU
KEEP IN
MIND THE
TRAINING
YOU'VE
HAD, YOU
SHOULD
BE FINE!

WITH MY
HYPER-
RESONANCE
...?



AFTER YOU
HAVE STOPPED
THE REVERSE
FLOW OF
MEMORY
PARTICLES
AND
RETURNED IT
TO NORMAL
FLOW...

...LET US SEND
RESONANT WAVES TO
ALL OF THE PASSAGE
RINGS WHERE
THE SEPHIROTH
TREES ARE IN EACH
REGION, AND SLOWLY
LOWER THE LANDS
SIMULTANEOUSLY!

ぽっ
う

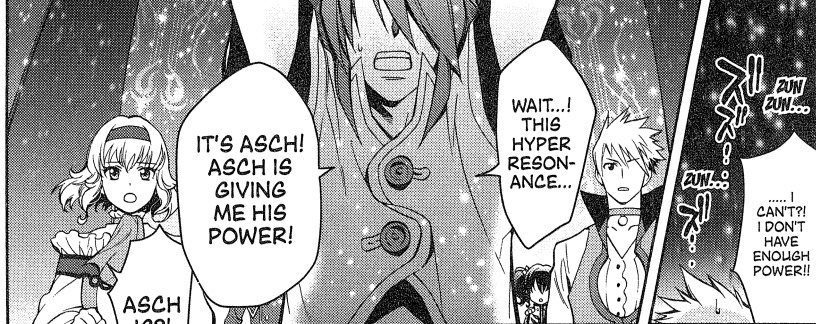


I NEVER
EXPECTED
A DEFECT
TO
DEFEAT
ME...



KAK

NOW ISN'T
THAT
FASCINATING
...!





CHAPTER 15, FLAMES

...during the brief period of confusion following, the people began, little by little, to adapt. And life was just beginning to return to peace...

The world had started deviating from the guidepost known as the Score...

The two-layered world built up for two thousand years returned to its original form.

After that, the lands slowly descended to Qliphoth and settled.

But...

Van's plan is not done yet!

HYUU

He fell
to the
planet's
core...

...but he
survived
taking in the
consciousness
of the
Seventh
Fonon,
Lorelei!!

AH!



GRA AKK



Sync?!

I'LL
HAVE
THAT
SWORD
FROM
YOU
NOW!

DMP



GA KEEN

I WON'T
HOLD
BACK!

FINALLY, VAN'S
REGENERATION
IS NEARLY
COMPLETE!
WE CAN'T
HAVE LORELEI!
BEING
RELEASED
JUST YET!

AND IF YOU
INTERFERE
...

TMP



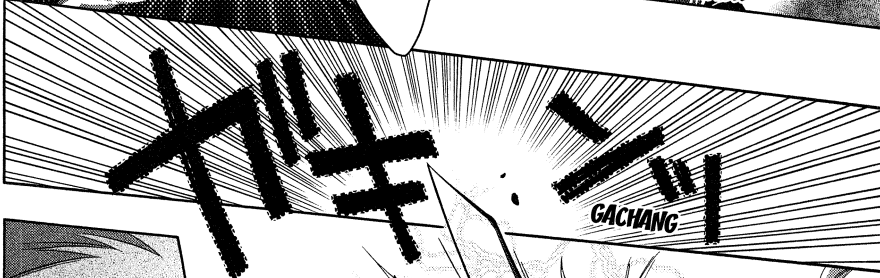
WHOOSH

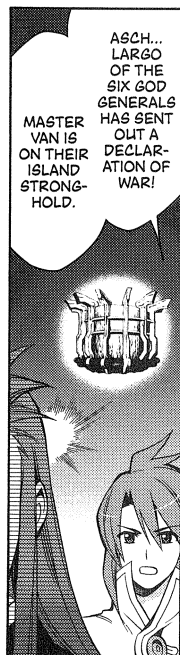
.....
HUMPH!

I SEE THAT
LORELEI'S
KEY IS
GOING BE A
CONTINUING
ANNOYANCE.



HE HAS
THE
SAME
FACE AS
ION! SO
HE'S A
REPLICA
TOO...?!







*...but also
that we
create the
same fonon
resonance
as Lorelei.*

*It's all too
intricate.*

*Not just that I
had a perfect
isofon replica
built of me...*

.....
*It's
ironic.*



*...have
created
possibilities
for the
future...*

*But those
things
now...*



**SO
YOU
TAKE
THE
FIGHT
TO
HIM!**

**AND
WE'LL
GIVE
EVERY-
THING
WE'VE
GOT TO
BACK
YOU UP!**

**IT'S YOUR
DUTY TO
RELEASE
LORELEI!**

**THEN IT'S
PERFECT.
YOU
TAKE THE
SWORD
TOO...**

AND STOP
CALLING
THAT
BASTARD,
"MASTER,"
WILL YOU?!

EH?!

YOU
LITTLE
IDIOT!
WHO
ASKED
YOU TO
DECIDE
THAT?!

GRUMP

YOU'RE
ME,
AREN'T
YOU?!

HAHH

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU SAY
THAT
YOU'RE
THE
BETTER
ONE...
THE
RIGHT
ONE TO
DO THE
JOB?!

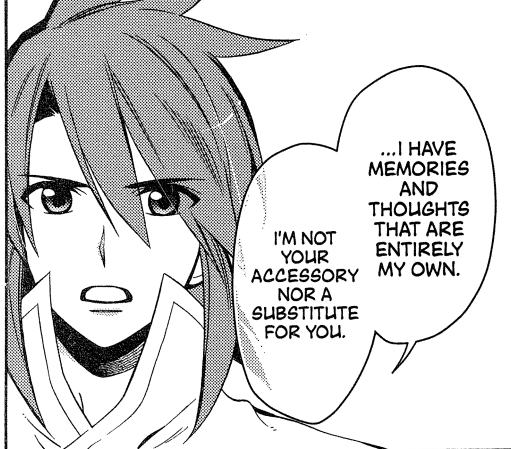
GRWN

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU SAY
YOU'RE
GOING TO
DO IT?!

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
FIGHT ME
FOR THE
SPOT?!

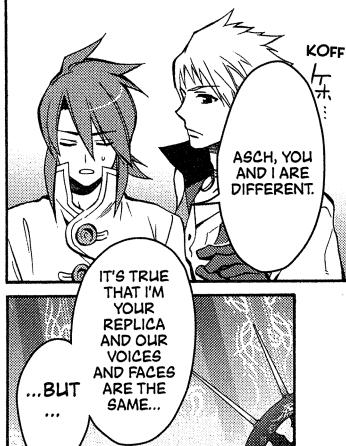
HAHH

GRWN
GRWN



I'M NOT
YOUR
ACCESSORY
NOR A
SUBSTITUTE
FOR YOU.

...I HAVE
MEMORIES
AND
THOUGHTS
THAT ARE
ENTIRELY
MY OWN.



KOFF
トホ:
ASCH, YOU
AND I ARE
DIFFERENT.

IT'S TRUE
THAT I'M
YOUR
REPLICA
AND OUR
VOICES
AND FACES
ARE THE
SAME...
...BUT
...



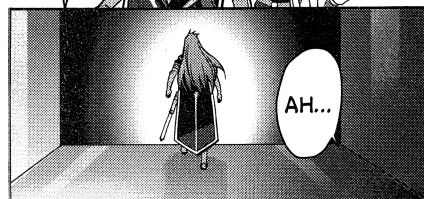
*Don't go
blathering
out of
ignorance
...!!!*

*That's
the only
reason
I'd leave
everything
I have to
you...!*

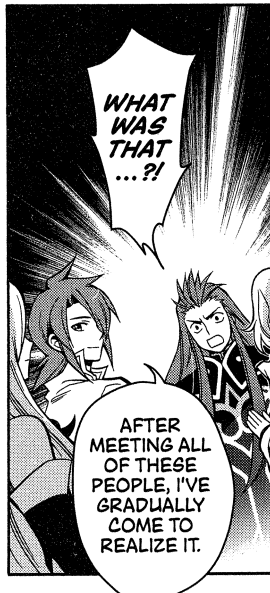
I DON'T
ACCEPT
THAT...
YOU
ARE
ME!!



I WAS
SUCH
A
FOOL!

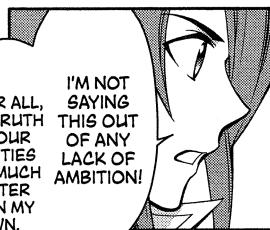


AH...



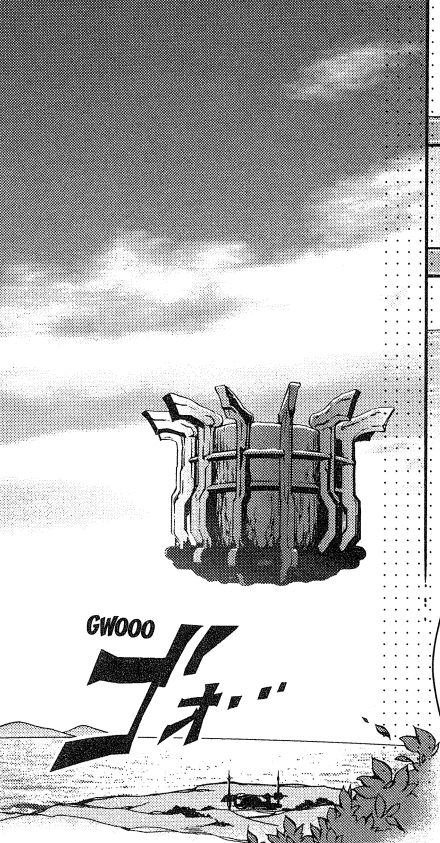
WHAT
WAS
THAT
... ?!

AFTER
MEETING ALL
OF THESE
PEOPLE, I'VE
GRADUALLY
COME TO
REALIZE IT.



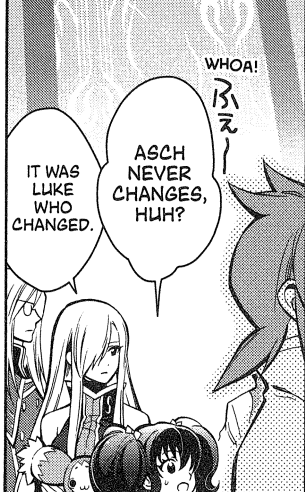
AFTER ALL,
THE TRUTH
IS YOUR
ABILITIES
ARE MUCH
BETTER
THAN MY
OWN.

I'M NOT
SAYING
THIS OUT
OF ANY
LACK OF
AMBITION!



GWOOO

オオ...



IT WAS LUKE WHO CHANGED.

ASCH NEVER CHANGES, HUH?

WHOA!

ふえー



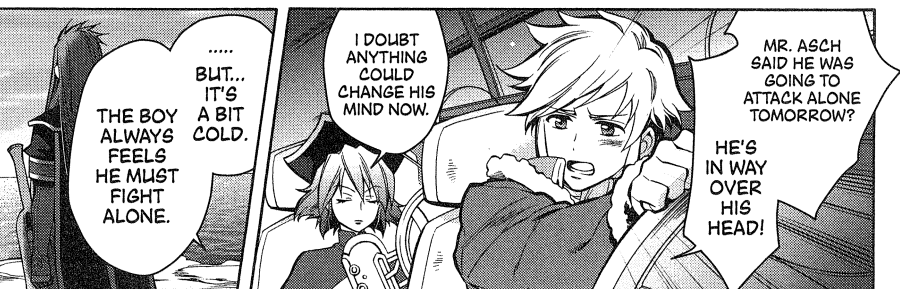
ACCEPT THAT THE REPLICA WHO STOLE EVERYTHING HE EVER HAD CAN ALSO STAND ON HIS OWN...

I THINK THAT ASCH ACTUALLY REALIZES IT.

HE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO ACCEPT IT.



THAT'S ELDRANT, THE REPLICA OF THE ISLE OF HOD?



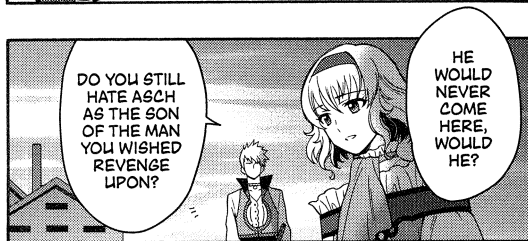
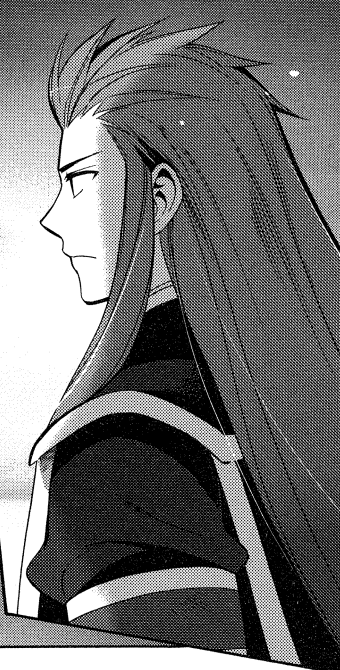
THE BOY ALWAYS FEELS HE MUST FIGHT ALONE.

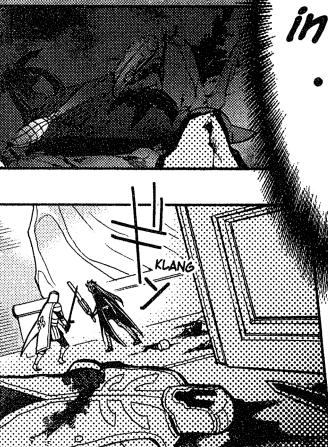
..... BUT... IT'S A BIT COLD.

I DOUBT ANYTHING COULD CHANGE HIS MIND NOW.

MR. ASCH SAID HE WAS GOING TO ATTACK ALONE TOMORROW?

HE'S IN WAY OVER HIS HEAD!





ASCH...
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
NOW?

THIS
COULD
BE THE
HAPPIEST
I'VE EVER
BEEN IN MY
LIFE.

I HAVE MY
FRIENDS...
I HAVE
YOU HERE,
TEAR... AND
I'VE STARTED
TO THINK OF
MYSELF
AS ME.



...but
am I
in time
...?!

I need...
to make
a world
where
Natalia
can live in
peace...

The
replica's
here
too?

ASCH?! IT'S
DANGEROUS
COMING
HERE
ALONE!

SHUT
UP,
TRASH
...!

LET'S
GO
AND...

ZWATTS

THERE'S
NO
END TO
THEM...
OUT
OF MY
WAY!!

FWOON

EH
...?

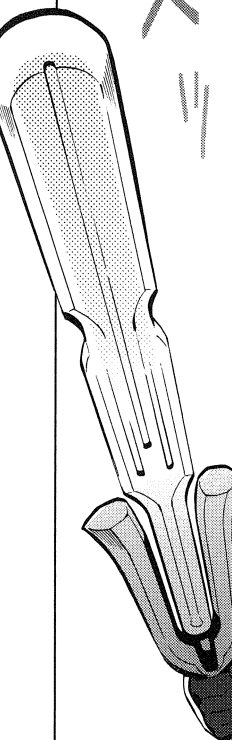
UWAAH!!

ASCH!

LUKE!

OWW
...

FWOON



WHERE ARE WE?

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D FALL FOR THE SAME TRAP AS THE TRASH DID?!



IF THEIR GOAL WAS TO DIVIDE OUR FORCES, THEN THEY MUST BE UNDER ATTACK ABOVE.

GAMPH!!

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?!



It looks like my body doesn't even have enough time left to get to the final chamber...

...my chest wound wouldn't heal...

The tomons holding my cells together are dispersing, and...

B-BMP

THEN WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE AND FIND OUR WAY BACK TO THEM QUICK!

B-BMP





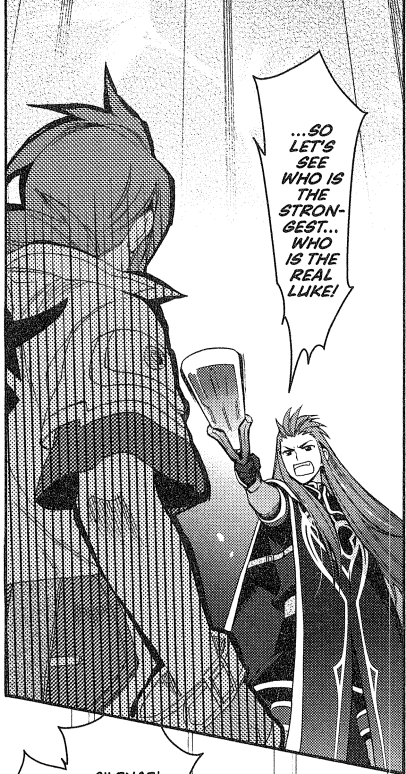
I DON'T
CARE
WHAT YOU
THINK,
I'M HERE
NOW!

BUT
EVEN
SO, I'VE
DECIDED
TO BE
ME!

AND IF I AM
CONNECTED
TO YOUR
STRENGTH...

...THEN
I AM
NOT
GOING
TO
LOSE
THIS!

SHKK



...SO
LET'S
SEE
WHO IS
THE
STRON-
GEST...
WHO
IS THE
REAL
LUKE!



SILENCE!
DON'T
GIVE ME
EXCUSES!

THERE IS
NO WAY
IN HELL
THAT THE
ONE WHO
STOLE MY
PAST AND
MY FUTURE
"KNOWS
HOW I
FEEL!"

WE'RE
BOTH
REAL,
RIGHT?
YOU AND
I ARE
DIFFERENT
PEOPLE!

SHING



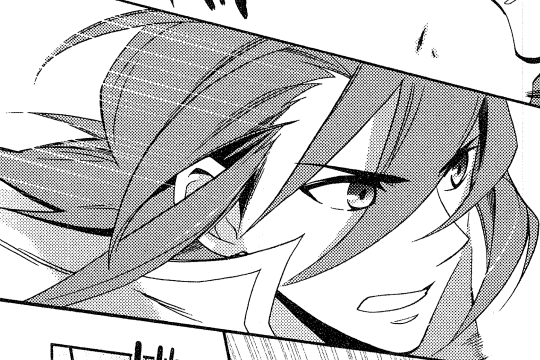
I DON'T
EVEN
HAVE
A PAST
TO GET
STOLEN.

ALL I
HAVE
LEFT
IS THE
PRESENT!

..... THE
PRESENT
IS ALL I
GOT TOO.



KH...!!



HII DMP
HII



KANG

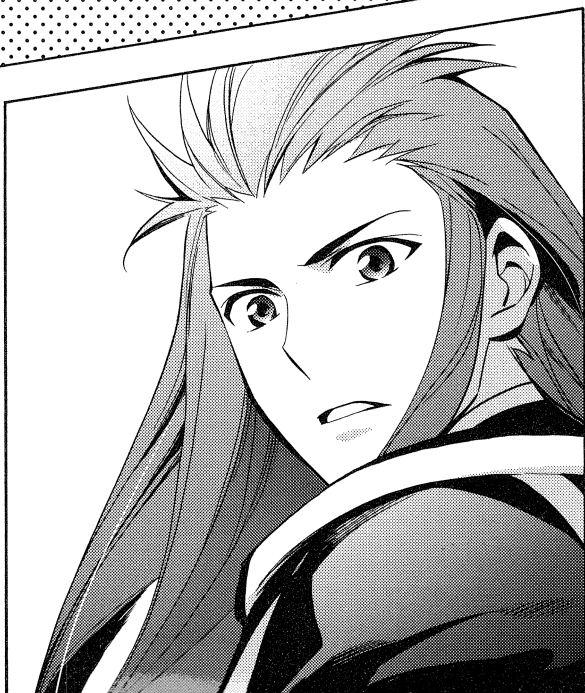
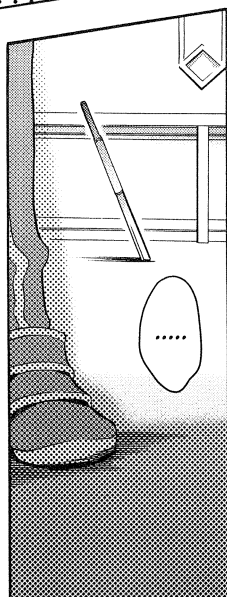
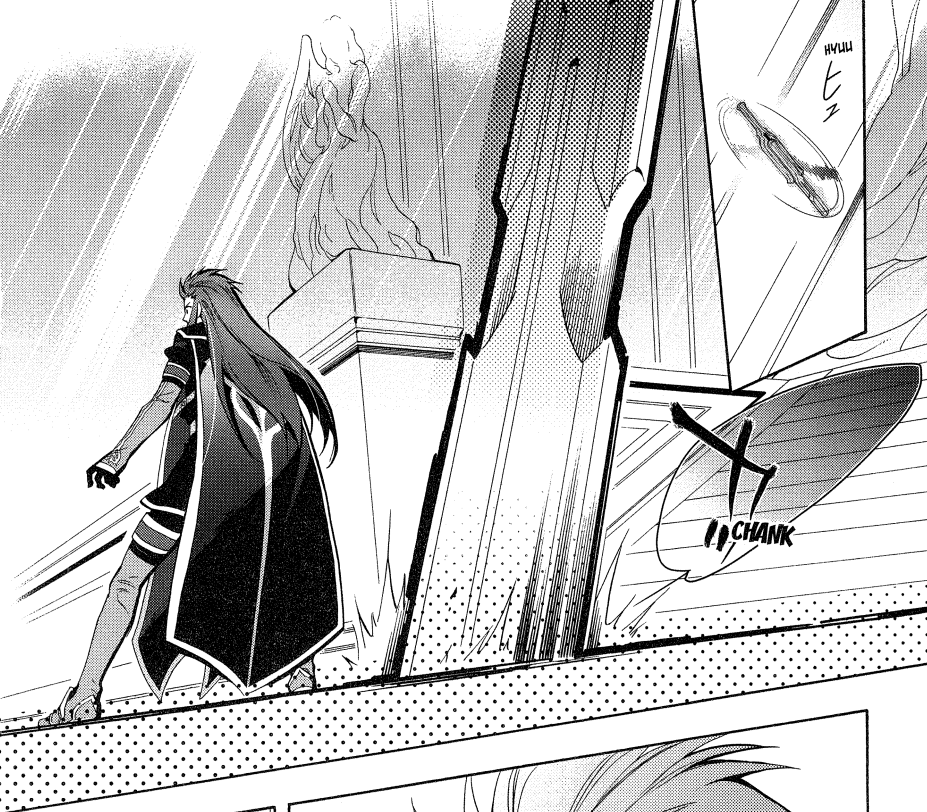
KANG

KAK
HII



GWOO

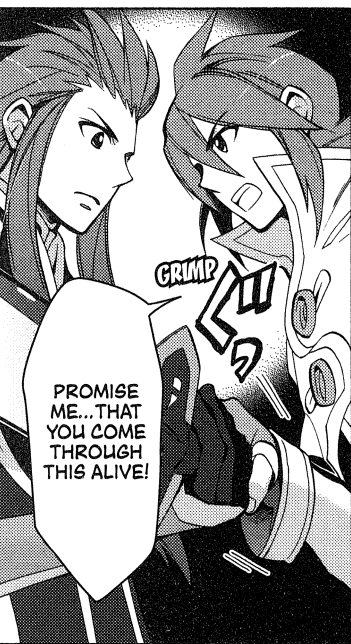






YOU WILL
HAND
THAT
OVER
TO THE
ORDER OF
LORELE!!

NO TIME
LEFT!
LEAVE
THESE
PEOPLE
TO ME!
YOU GO!
HURRY!



PROMISE
ME... THAT
YOU COME
THROUGH
THIS ALIVE!

GRIMP



YOU'LL
MAKE
NATALIA
CRY!
ME TOO!

IF YOU
DON'T...

DMP



TAKE
IT!



YOU
WON!
YOU
DO IT!

ASCH...
BUT...!

1/0

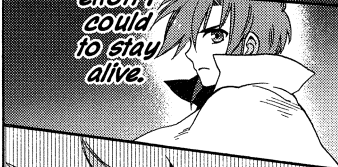
PASH



*My home
and
name
were
stolen by
a replica.*



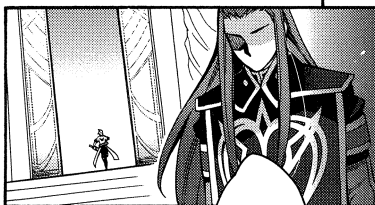
*All I
could
do was
make
every
effort I
could
to stay
alive.*



*...there
was one
promise
I made
so long
ago that
I could
never
forget.*

*I should
have
abandoned
my past
but..*

*..... A
precious
memory*



*I WONDER
IF I CAN
KEEP
THAT
PROMISE*
...



SHIKK



*There are
people
I can
still help
survive.*

HEH

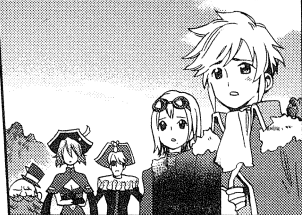


**YOU!
OUT
OF
OUR
WAY!**

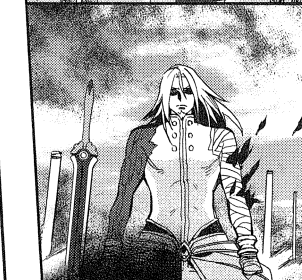
**I
REFUSE!**

**YOU ARE
NOW
FACING
ASCH...**

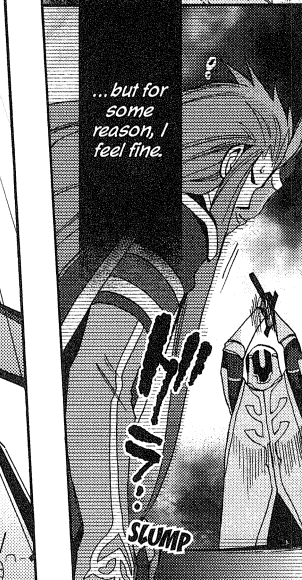
...NO...



*I'm
about
to
vanish
...*



*...but for
some
reason, I
feel fine.*





**LUKE
FON
FABRE!**

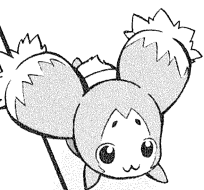
THE END.



あとがき。

AFTERWORD

Asch's journey is at an end. At the very beginning, he said he had abandoned his past, but actually people can't do that. Your past never goes away. All you can do is avert your eyes for a while... But in the course of battling in search of the truth, at some point he was able to face his past and embrace it. And--dare to put some trust into the future. Thank you so much for reading our work.



シナリオ／二条凜

Scenario Writer/Rin Nijyo.

It was an honor to draw a manga about Asch from my beloved Tales of the Abyss. The days spent on this manga were happy ones.

I had to draw this very quickly but I loved the episodes with Luke and Van! And I really looked forward to drawing the crossover scenes with Natalia and Guy. So I'm especially happy I was a part of that! Thank you so much for reading all the way to the end!

漫画／斎藤ハナ

Manga Artist/Hana Saitou.



TALES OF THE ABYSS

テイルズオブジァビス

ASCH THE BLOODY

2

MANGA BY HANA SAITOU

SCRIPT BY RIN NIJYO

ORIGINAL STORY BY NAMCO BANDAI GAMES INC.

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Original Character Design ©KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

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In the sub-basement of the world, Asch uses a fon slot to allow Luke's consciousness to join his while Asch goes with the rest of Luke's group searching for clues to what Van is planning.

But when Asch starts experiencing headaches and his wounds won't heal, he realizes the opening of his and Luke's fon slots may have started a process that will end his life...

This is the final chapter of the Tales of the Abyss side-story that expands and focuses on the saga of Asch the Bloody!

SUGGESTED

UP
13

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